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Israel may raid Syrian nerve gas plant

LONDON, Jan 10, (AP): Israel is considering an air attack against a secret Syrian installation manufacturing lethal nerve gas weapons which could be launched against Israel, the Sunday Times of London reported.

The existence of the chemical weapons factory in a remote desert area north of Damascus has been known to the Israelis and Americans for some time, the newspaper said in a front-page story attributed to unnamed defence sources in Tel Aviv.

"But a well-placed Israeli source said that anxiety had increased in the last few months as it became apparent that the Syrians have manufactured warheads to carry the gas," the newspaper said.

Options

It said an Israeli defence official said Israel was discussing "at the highest level" three options to deal with the situation, including an attack on the plant using F-15 aircraft.

The other options are improving Israel's ability to resist a large-scale chemical assault and, "as a last resort," manufacturing its own nerve gas, the newspaper said.

"However, their 1981 attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor demonstrated a determination to destroy hostile targets at long range," it said, referring to Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear research centre at Tamuz, Iraq, in June 1981.

"Given Israel's past record of eliminating any threat to its national security, British and French experts believe that a strike is the favoured option."

The newspaper said one argument within the Israeli Defence Ministry in favour of a pre-emptive strike is that Israel regards nerve gas as almost a great threat as nuclear weapons.

"The debate now revolves around whether Israel should launch a pre-emptive strike in peace time, as it did with Iraq, or wait until war breaks out," it said.

INSIDE

International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3,4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Features	7,8,9
Business	10,11
Classifieds	12
Urdu	13,14
Sports	15,16

کریمی خدایات، فوج طیل کریمی
امانی از دیگر پرستاری کریمی
کشیده کاروں میں پاک ہوئے دیں
کشیدہ کاروں میں اپنے کو کشیدے
کشیدہ کاروں میں دیں

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be above normal with light to moderate easterly wind and some clouds will appear.
State of sea: moderate
High water: 3.00 am, 5.00 pm
Low water: 10.00 am, 10.00 pm
Sunrise: 6:44 am
Sunset: 5:08 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 18°C 64°F
Abu Dhabi: 17°C 63°F
Falak: 16°C 61°F
Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 99 per cent
Abu Dhabi: 98 per cent
Falak: 98 per cent
Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 98 per cent
Abu Dhabi: 96 per cent
Falak: 96 per cent
Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 8°C 48°F
Abu Dhabi: 11°C 52°F
Falak: 10°C 50°F

ARAB TIMES

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1988

JAMADIAL-AWWAL 21, 1408 AH

16 PAGES 150 FILS

GCC states capable of defending themselves

Gulf war nearing an end: Abdullah

By Ahmed Al Jarallah



Crown Prince Abdullah

THE Saudi Crown Prince and First Deputy Premier, Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz has said that he believes the Gulf war is nearing an end.

In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times he also said: "If it does not come to an end officially in 1988, it will at least be practically over."

In the interview given in Casablanca, Morocco, the Saudi Crown Prince expressed his opinion on the Iraq-Iran war as well as on other Arab issues.

Prince Abdullah said that Iran would not invade the Gulf states because "it is unable to do that."

Incapable

He added that besides lacking in arms Iran is incapable of achieving a general military mobilisation.

He said: "When Iran calls upon its people to volunteer, it does not get the necessary response." He added that three years ago, when Iran called for volunteers, 400,000 responded, but two years ago, when they called for volunteers, only 200,000 responded. Last year,

The Saudi Crown Prince,

speaking about his visit to Cairo said that Egypt "is and will remain very important to Arabs, Islam and Muslims." He said that Saudi Arabia's relations with Egypt were not based on interests or governed by situations but were a "link of brotherhood."

He added: "I was very pleased with the atmosphere of frankness I found during my discussions with Egyptian officials." He commented further that he had been pleased with the reason and logic of the Egyptian leadership headed by President Hosni Mubarak.

In addition to Egypt, Abdullah also visited Iraq, Jordan, and Syria, after the Amman summit. Commenting on the tour, he said it was undertaken to follow up the implementation of the decisions of the summit which had succeeded in establishing that the Arab world would not pass through an atmosphere of disunity which had prevailed prior to the summit. He said: "All Arab countries must cooperate when necessary in order to respond to the challenges that face our nation."

The Saudi Crown Prince said that when he visited Damascus

and Baghdad, both the countries were determined to make him feel comfortable about the confidence and trust between them. He added that the explanation of both countries as to ways they are restoring their relations was logical. He said: "It is a grave mistake to even think that a country in the Arab world can live alone without cooperating with other Arab countries."

Successful

Speaking about the summit, the Crown Prince said that the Amman summit was successful because of the objectivity of the participants in dealing with the issues. He added that they had avoided secondary issues to discuss the main concerns and the leaders heavily felt the international situations surrounding them and "responded to the ambitions of the Arab nation."

Prince Abdullah said that all these factors made the summit resolutions practical. He emphasised that frank meetings are the most efficient solution to present day problems and that this had been achieved at the Amman summit.

(Continued on Page 4)

UK offers

India advanced N-powered carrier

NEW DELHI, Jan 10, (UPI): British Defence Secretary George Younger today said London is prepared to supply India without conditions a range of advanced military hardware, including jet fighters and a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Younger, on the third day of a five-day visit, told the Press Trust of India (PTI) his discussions with senior military officials had opened "wide scope for further cooperation ... in the field of defence."

India last year purchased some \$550 million worth of British-made weapons and is London's fifth largest military customer. Key elements of its arsenals are British, including Jaguar fighters and its latest aircraft carrier.

New Delhi purchases most of its arms from Moscow and Washington usually sets conditions on supplying India any equipment because it fears the Soviet Union will get access to the technology.

Focused

PTI quoted Younger as saying talks had focused on India's plans to purchase 80 jet trainers, a sale for which the main contenders are the British-built Hawk and the French-made Alpha.

New Delhi has not yet reached a decision on the purchase but Younger said London was ready to supply India without any conditions its latest models of Jaguar and Sea Harrier jets, and hoped to participate in India's goal of building an entirely Indian-made fighter, dubbed the light combat aircraft (LCA).

India has vertical-takeoff Sea Harriers aboard its second aircraft carrier, the INS Virat, formerly the HMS Hermes that was combat-tested in the Falkland Islands before being refitted and delivered to India last October.

But Younger told the PTI he had offered more sophisticated versions of the planes, as well as Britain's latest "invincible" class design for India's planned third aircraft carrier.

He said London was prepared to sell a nuclear-powered carrier but Indian officials indicated they were more interested in constructing locally a smaller craft.

Doctors said 35-year-old Toukan Musabbah died at Gaza's Shifa hospital after being shot at his shop in the city's Shaj'a district, where demonstrators burned tyres and stoned Israeli soldiers and vehicles. The Army said it was checking the report.

Double wedding for 85-year-old

Tehran warned on Gulf aggression

Mubarak asks Iran to accept peace

ABU DHABI, Jan 10, (AP): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today urged Iran to accept peace with Iraq and warned that Egypt will not stand idle in the face of Iranian threats to Gulf Arab countries.

Mubarak made the comments today in Saudi Arabia before flying on to the United Arab Emirates, where his host, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, advocates dialogue rather than confrontation with Iran.

The newspaper quoted Askour as saying he opted for a double wedding so that his two wives could keep each other company. "One wife by herself at home could get bored," he said.

"But only a few days after the wedding the two began arguing and fighting each other," he complained.

Askour said he was unable to stop the squabbling "because I don't understand, much less speak Indian," the newspaper reported.

Death sentence

DAMASCUS, (Reuter): South Yemen will not commute the death sentence passed on ousted President Ali Nasser Mohamed for treason last month, a Yemeni Minister said yesterday.

Most restored the ties last month amid calls to unite Arab

countries against threats that the Iran-Iraq war might expand.

"I appeal to our Iranian brothers to heed the call to peace, because this (war) situation will definitely affect Iran and the Arabs as well," Mubarak told a news conference at the end of his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, where he held talks with King Fahd.

"Security in this (Gulf) region is part of the security of Egypt," he said. "Egypt under no circumstances will relinquish the obligation to safeguard the security of its sister Arab powers."

Restored

Mubarak also defended Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, but accused Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of "backing down" on an Israeli commitment to explore an international peace conference for solving the Palestinian problem.

Mubarak's visit to Saudi Arabia is the first by an Egyptian ruler since the peace treaty with Israel fed nearly all Arab countries to break relations with Cairo.

Most restored the ties last month amid calls to unite Arab

Suffocation

Rabin toured the area by helicopter and told reporters: "We need time and patience to adjust the number of our own forces and our methods of action to the circumstances ... it is not a matter of a day or two, so don't stand there with a stopwatch."

Doctors said they had to turn away some of the wounded after giving them first aid because there was no room in the hospital.

UN relief workers said the number of wounded in Gaza city and north of the Gaza Strip was at least 50 today.

Fierce street battles between troops and demonstrators continued in the city after nightfall and occasional bursts of gunfire could be heard, interspersed with Islamic slogans.

Large Israeli troop reinforcements were driven into the

Gaza Strip in civilian buses and armoured personnel carriers.

Military sources said the Army moved another infantry brigade into the teeming coastal strip, home to an estimated 650,000 Palestinians, mostly impoverished refugees.

Eyewitnesses in the Gaza Strip said last week that troops had introduced a new form of riot gas that caused suffocation. An Army spokesman said troops used only teargas, although possibly a new brand or larger quantity than in the past.

In widespread Gaza Strip unrest today, 33 Palestinians were wounded by bullets, rubber bullets and beatings in the Mugazai refugee camp, the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City and the Rafah area, foreign relief workers said.

A boy, 9, was shot in the knees in Rafah, they said.

UAE official in Iran talks

Tehran ready to work with GCC on regional security

Saeed did not mention the conflict, now in its eighth year.

Velayati's remarks followed two visits to Tehran by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaz Dec 23 and 29. Sharaz also visited Gulf capitals, including Riyadh, toward the end of December.

Middle East analysts speculated Syria was playing the role of honest broker in the region, a view that was strengthened when Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam accompanied Sharaz on a swing through the Gulf last week.

Khaddam made stop-overs in Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE.

Message

Sharaz arrived in Amman today to brief Jordanian officials on Syria's mediation role to contain the Gulf war.

Sharaz was carrying a letter from President Hafez Al Assad to King Hussein of Jordan, said the official Jordan News Agency, which reported Sharaz's arrival. It did not disclose contents of the letter.

The news agency said the Syrian official will also discuss during his short working visit with Foreign Minister Taher Masri the latest developments in the region.

KARACHI, Jan 10, (Reuter): Two people were shot dead and 27 wounded last night when ethnic rioting broke out during political celebrations in Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi, doctors said today.

Troops in battalions were called in and began patrolling the affected districts in heavy Army trucks fitted with machineguns, the authorities said.

Police said cases of stabbing, arson and looting were reported from at least seven police districts.

The trouble began during victory celebrations by militants of the Mohajir community, who captured the posts of mayor and deputy mayor of Karachi yesterday.

Mohajir National Movement, led by Mohajir National Movement (MNM) processions were passing through suburbs where the rival Pashtun community is strong.

During the past 15 months, at least 350 people have been killed in outbreaks of rioting between the two ethnic groups.

On Saturday councillors elected unopposed the movement's candidate for mayor, 28-year-old medical graduate Farooq Sattar, and deputy mayor, lawyer Abdul Razique Khan. More than 25,000 MNM supporters flocked to the red stone city corporation building to celebrate the result.

THE WORLD THIS MORNING



Whitelaw resigns

LONDON. (AP): Lord Whitelaw, Britain's Deputy Prime Minister and one of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's closest confidants resigned yesterday for health reasons less than a month after suffering a minor stroke.

Fishermen held

NEW DELHI, (AP): Pakistan has detained 42 Indian fishermen after intercepting their boats in the Gulf of Kutch, the United News of India said yesterday.

Basra shelled

NICOSIA, (Reuter): Iranian Revolutionary Guards shelled economic and military areas around Iraq's southern city of Basra overnight. Iran's news agency Iran reported yesterday.

Summit proposed

Controversy on state powers grows in Iran

Be strong, lawmakers urged

ATHENS, Jan 10. (UPI): A leading Iranian cleric was reported to have called on the country's lawmakers to "be strong," as signs emerged of a growing constitutional controversy over the powers of the government.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri as calling on the 12-man Council of Guardians of the constitution to "safeguard the constitution and the system," and to "be strong."

But President Ali Khamenei, who spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini publicly rebuked Thursday, praised the Imam (Khomeini) Saturday as a "unique and incomparable leader," IRNA said.

Dignity

Montazeri is designated successor to Khomeini, and IRNA reported his remarks days after the Imam decreed that the Iranian government had "absolute power" and may legislate in some cases without conferring with Parliament.

Montazeri, speaking in Qom, stopped short of contradicting Khomeini directly, but urged Iran's Council of Guardians, a

sort of 12-man senate, to "be strong, while taking into account the needs of the revolution in different periods."

IRNA quoted him as saying "the dignity of the Guardians Council must be protected," and that "if a law is approved, other organs cannot adapt it to suit their own peculiar tastes," and "it must be obeyed by all."

The Qom cleric's remarks indirectly contradicted a decree Khomeini issued Dec. 25, laying down that the government had absolute power to legislate on matters concerning fiscal, labour, banking, shipping and labour organisations.

Thursday, Khomeini publicly reprimanded Iran's elected President for having "misquoted and misrepresented" the decree.

He said Khamenei "apparently" did not recognise that the government was "an institution ordained by the Almighty and founded with absolute power."

Iranian residents reached by telephone said Khomeini's decree caused some turmoil in the provinces, where small-town clerics raised dissenting voices against it.

Friday, a prominent member

of the Council of Guardians, speaking at prayer ceremonies in Tehran, ducked the constitutional controversy, but stated that the Majlis, or Iranian Parliament, played a "key role" in making laws.

Unique

Khomeini Saturday described Khomeini as a unique and incomparable leader ... who spearheaded the move (against the Shah) and showed the way to the people."

Khomeini was speaking in Qom on the anniversary of the rioting on Jan. 9, 1978, which snowballed into a revolution a year later.

Regional analysts said there was no immediate evidence Khomeini was in the same position as former President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, whom Khomeini ousted in 1981 by making a public attack on him.

Rajavi said Iran's ruling Ayatollah "had previously violated the most elemental judicial principles and ignored even his own judicial system," and "now he openly declares that the powers of government are unconditional and limitless."

continued to do so over the past nine years.

By admonishing Khamenei, who spoke on the subject New Year's day in his capacity as Friday prayer leader, Khomeini appeared to be rapping the knuckles, too, of other prayer leaders who had spoken against the decree, regional analysts said.

Attack

In Baghdad, a prominent Iranian opposition leader Friday blasted Khomeini for suggesting that "the powers of the government are unconditional and limitless."

Masoud Rajavi, chief of the outlawed Mojahedin Khalq organisation, said a message addressed to "the people of Iran" that Khomeini's letter to Khamenei indicated his "regime has run aground and reached the end of the road."

Rajavi said Iran's ruling Ayatollah "had previously violated the most elemental judicial principles and ignored even his own judicial system," and "now he openly declares that the powers of government are unconditional and limitless."



Thousands of people celebrate in the Panama streets after hearing rumours that General Noriega has fled the country. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bomb blast kills 8 in Burma

RANGOON, Jan 10. (Reuter): A bomb ripped through a packed carriage on the Mandalay-Rangoon express train today, killing eight people and injuring 38, Burma's official radio said.

The radio blamed the Karen National Union (KNU), one of about a dozen insurgent groups which has been fighting the military-led Burmese government for 40 years.

Worst

Railway officials and Western embassies in Rangoon said no foreigners appeared to have been among the victims. It was the worst reported civilian attack since 1985 when 60 people died after a mine blew up under a train.

The officials said today's bomb was under a wooden seat in the fourth carriage from the front. It blew up when the train had travelled about 300 yards from the suburban station of Pazundaung less than a mile from Rangoon's central station.

The radio said five men, two women and a boy were killed in the explosion. They had travelled south overnight from Mandalay, Burma's second city.

Mubarak asks Iran to accept peace

(Continued from Page 1)

accepted by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"I blame Israel's prime minister ... why does he reject the international conference? Why does he fear it? ... It will only be a case for discussion," Mubarak said.

He expressed resentment of Shamer's demand that the 1979 US-mediated Camp David peace accord between Egypt and Israel should be the basis for Arab-Israeli peace.

Camp David called only for limited Palestinian self-rule rather than statehood or self-determination demanded by Arab leaders.

"He (Shamer) violated Camp David," said Mubarak. "Annexing the (Syrian Heights of) Golan was a violation of Camp David, (making) Jerusalem Israel's capital was a violation of Camp David. No one should accuse us of violating Camp David, when he was the first to have violated it."

Mubarak's Gulf tour is a prelude to a scheduled Jan. 18 meeting with US President Reagan in Washington after talks with the leaders of France, Italy, West Germany and Britain.

Uprising death toll rises ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Israel has been criticised worldwide for its use of live ammunition to quell the riots and plans to expel Palestinians it has accused of inciting trouble.

Intensity

Cabinet sources quoted Rabin as saying the military underestimated the intensity of the violence.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinians were seen barricading roads and stoning troops in Khan Yunis, Gaza City and at least two refugee camps. Scattered unrest erupted also in Arab East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank.

Visiting UN Under-secretary Marrack Goulding, whose fact-finding mission is being boycotted by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, met UN relief officials and International Red Cross representatives in Jerusalem today.

Calm returns to Panama City

PANAMA CITY, Jan 10. (Reuter): Calm returned to the Panamanian capital after rumours fizzled that strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega had abandoned power and fled the country.

Justinez accused opposition leaders of spreading the rumours to create unrest during the general's absence.

Noriega was seen by reporters as he entered a downtown hotel in the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo on Saturday but the general declined to speak to journalists.

But military officials moved quickly to defuse the rumours, saying that the general had left the country only to visit his daughter in the Dominican Republic and would return to his office on Monday.

In a televised interview last night, armed forces chief of staff Colonel Marco Justinez said Noriega would return to Panama either late on Sunday or early on Monday.

"Early Monday he will be in his office," Justinez said.

Plane plunges into lake

TOKYO, Jan 10. (AP): A Japanese airliner with 52 aboard plunged into a lake in western Japan today after overshooting the runway as it tried to takeoff on a domestic flight, officials said.

Three passengers sustained slight bruises on their knees and foreheads, said a police official.

The nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) said Pakistan faced an "extremely grave" situation because of President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's policies and urged all democratic forces to unite to bring about change.

The MRD's executive committee, which ended a two-day meeting here last night, said in a statement it would launch its new campaign with a rally on Feb. 12 in the Punjab provincial capital Lahore.

Riffs

"We will try to do everything non-violent not only to mobilise public opinion but also to change the system," MRD secretary-general Malik Mohammad Qasim told a news conference.

He said he hoped the campaign would be more potent than the one in 1983 when the MRD says hundreds of supporters were killed in clashes with security forces. The government put the death toll at more than 60.

MRD acting convenor Qasim Gardezi said two years of rifts over the alliance's organisational structure had immobilised the

MRD plans new drive for polls

RAWALPINDI, Jan 10. (Reuter): Pakistan's main opposition alliance said today it had recovered from near collapse and was planning a new campaign for free elections.

The nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) said Pakistan faced an "extremely grave" situation because of President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's policies and urged all democratic forces to unite to bring about change.

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The meeting decided to continue rotating the MRD convenorship among its member parties. Benazir takes over the convenorship in February for three months.

Druze leader

MUKHTARAH, Jan 10. (Reuter): Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, seeking to avoid fresh sectarian violence, said today he would hand a stolen helicopter back to the Lebanese Army.

But he told a rally he would give it to a Druze-dominated unit and it was unclear whether the Christian-led Army would accept this as an end to a 12-day feud.

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- Minimum experience 3 years, complete familiarity with ministries regulations for personnel related matters. Arabic/English languages essential.

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The work is generally in English, but Arabic ability would be considered as an asset.

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College graduate personnel officer

- Minimum experience 3 years, complete familiarity with ministries regulations for personnel related matters. Arabic/English languages essential.

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KUWAIT . . . GULF

Zayed receives Gorbachev's message

ABU DHABI, Jan 10. (Kuna): President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan today received a message from Secretary General of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev.

The message dealt with a number of regional developments, international issues and bilateral relations.

Gorbachev's personal emissary Karen Brutens, who is deputy director of international affairs department at the SCP Central Committee, conveyed the message during a meeting today with Sheikh Zayed.

Brutens has visited Syria, Egypt, and Kuwait in part of a tour aimed at relaying to Arab leaders the outcome of the Soviet-US summit in Washington last month.

Kuwaiti envoy meets Syrian minister

DAMASCUS, Jan 10. (Kuna): Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad Al Jasim, today conferred with Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasser Gaidour.

Al Jasim told Kuna that the meeting focussed on the outcome of last week's Gulf-tour by Syrian Vice-President Abdelfatah Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara' particularly the visit to Kuwait.

Medicine prices

A KUWAITI daily reported that Kuwait's Public Health Ministry authorities are finalising the medications pricing law, in cooperation with officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The paper, quoting an official source at the ministry, said that the new law would be issued late this month or early next month and would unify medication prices in pharmacies and private hospitals.

Meanwhile, it was decided that the ministry's Medications Control and Registration Centre would begin upgrading its work within the next few weeks and that an extension would be built covering a 2000 square metre area.

17 accidents in Ahmadi

AHMADI suburb had the highest accident rate in Kuwait yesterday. Seventeen of the 23 accidents took place in Ahmadi. There were four accidents in Jahra and one each in Hawalli and the capital governorate.

Faiza Al Awadi, the head of



HH the Amir yesterday received the credentials of two new envoys to Kuwait. Picture (right) shows the Egyptian Ambassador Saeed Mohammad Rifaat presenting his credentials. Left: the new Niger envoy. Both ceremonies were attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad.

Kuwait-Sudan ties hailed

THE Sudanese ambassador to Kuwait Al Amine Mohammed Abdullah yesterday was quoted as hailing the Kuwaiti-Sudanese relations and said they will improve in the future.

In an interview published in Kuwaiti daily *Seyassat*, the Ambassador praised Kuwait's moral and material support to Sudan which is a large recipient of Kuwaiti economic aid and is still receiving grants from Kuwait which has large investments there.

In response to a question on the Gulf conflict, he denounced the Iranian aggression on Kuwait, saying such acts will aggravate the situation.

He believed a peaceful settlement of the Gulf war would be possible within an Islamic framework rather than being

Amir receives credentials of new envoys

HH the Amir yesterday received credentials of Niger's Ambassador Adam Zadeh and Egypt's Ambassador Saeed Mohammad Rifaat.

The ceremony at Seif Palace was attended by the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, the minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, Diwan Undersecretary and Amiri Guard.

He said it's time for Arabs to go beyond condemnations and armed revolt.

Inviting Arab businessmen and entrepreneurs to invest in his country, the ambassador said after the ouster of former President Numeiri the climate of foreign investment improve, yet he admitted there are still "routine measures."

Training course for students

DR NAJLA Nassar, the Director of the Training Department at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, opening the third training course for secondary students Saturday, organised to provide scientific knowledge among students and to encourage them to pursue scientific studies at the secondary or university level.

Faiza Al Awadi, the head of

Tunisian PM to visit UAE

ABU DHABI, Jan 10. (Kuna): Tunisian Prime Minister, Abdel-Hedi Bakouche, will shortly pay a visit to United Arab Emirates, it was officially announced here last night.

The visit which is due to start January 22, will be Bakouche's first trip abroad since he was appointed last November.

Bakouche is to brief the UAE officials on the new government policy and discuss bilateral relations as well as issues of mutual interests, the announcement said.

The Tunisian Charge d'Affaires here Adnan Al Damri yesterday discussed with UAE officials preparation for this coming visit.

Appointment of deans

THE acting rector of Kuwait University, Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak, said that the university had not yet issued a decision to extend the appointment for faculty deans to the second term of this academic year. He added that the extension depends on the University Council which will meet after the holidays. He explained that the period for appointing deans was supposed to end at the end of this month, but this period can be extended until the end of the present academic year when the need arises and when decided by each faculty.

UAE to attend League meeting

ABU DHABI, Jan 10. (Kuna): United Arab Emirates today announced that it will attend the extraordinary meeting of Arabs League Council at the level of foreign ministers.

The league's secretariat-general called for the meeting at the request of Libya to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Arab sources told Kuna that they expect the meeting to take place early next week in the Tunisian capital.

Kuwait hosts Arab Girl Guides camp

KUWAIT is hosting the weekly long Arab Girl Guides jamboree, beginning Jan 12. Arab Girl Guides are coming in large numbers to take part in the jamboree.

Camps and other activities will be held for the participants.

The first delegation arrived on Friday from Egypt. Another group, led by Afaf Fathi, a representative of the Arabian Society for Guides, has also arrived. Guides from other Arab countries will come this week.

Call to establish physiotherapy centres

A KUWAITI doctor has called for the establishment of physiotherapy centres in Kuwait. He also urged authorities to set up sanatoriums in some diseases.

Dr Waleed Al Basiri said "the absence of physiotherapy centre shows the lack of concern in official circles to this particular branch of medicine."

Rheumatism, renal failure and skin diseases can be treated beneficially if centres are set up near the coast, particularly at the Fallaka Island. The environment at the island was conducive for treatment for such diseases, he said.

Physiotherapy has not

Civil aviation conference to discuss joint GCC bureau

THE 4th conference of the ministers responsible for civil aviation in the Gulf Cooperation Council states will discuss the setting up of a joint bureau of the GCC states in the International Organization of Civil Aviation (ICAO) headquarters in Montreal, Canada, a senior Kuwaiti official said yesterday.

State Minister for Services Affairs Issa Al Mazed said in an interview with Kuna, that the Bureau will brief the GCC states on the international organisation's activities and resolutions.

He said that the conference, which will be held January 13th in Riyadh, will also tackle the freedom of transportation of air carriers operating in the GCC

states, and the increase of flights between the GCC countries' major cities.

Regarding the ticket fares in Kuwait, Mazed said Kuwait is keen not to increase unnecessary ticket fares, therefore, the proposed fare hike, which was to be implemented by the beginning of this month, has been suspended pending more coordination between all travel agencies and companies in Kuwait.

Mazed, meanwhile, said that he will head Kuwait's delegation to the fourth conference in Riyadh, noting that this meeting was scheduled to be held last November but was postponed due to the GCC secretariat's preoccupation with the eighth GCC summit, which was recently held in the Saudi capital.

Al Barak said that the union had asked members of the fund to refuse paying the increased fees and to actively work to have the increase cancelled. He explained that the board of the fund had paid about KD3,900 for a Municipality sports committee and had given some committee members KD3,000, which is a clear violation of the charter.

He added that there is no deficit in the fund but that the problem is the result of poor administration adding that several members had been dismissed before completing their official period of membership.

He said that the union had requested that authorities investigate these violations and had collected signatures of fund members who objected to the increase in the fund.

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Workers Union opposes increase in fund fees

MUSALLAM Al Barak, the head of the Workers Union at Kuwait Municipality and General Fire Department, said that the decision of the chairman of the Municipality and fire department workers union to increase the fund fees raised many questions.

Al Barak said that the union had asked members of the fund to refuse paying the increased fees and to actively work to have the increase cancelled. He explained that the board of the fund had paid about KD3,900 for a Municipality sports committee and had given some committee members KD3,000, which is a clear violation of the charter.

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The foundation will exhibit its 77 publications.

Jha meets Al Ayoub

THE Foreign Ministry's Director of Protocol Ahmed Abdul Wahed Al Ayoub yesterday held a meeting with Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha. During the meeting, held at Al Ayoub's office, they discussed the forthcoming visits of ministries. They also exchanged views on protocol and administrative matters.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

The Amir also received the head and members of the Palestinian studies institute.

Kuwait's Education Minister Anwar Abdulah Al Nouri attended the meeting.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Amir's support to Palestinian uprising praised

TWO Kuwaiti dailies yesterday praised the support of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah to the Palestinian uprising, noting that the Amir's stance reflects the support of all Kuwaiti people for their Palestinian brothers.

Daily Al Qabas commented that the Amir's call for a "historic awakening" toward the developments in occupied Palestine reflects Kuwait's stance toward all the Arab problems.

The paper noted that the uprising is an expression of the Palestinians' hopelessness and disappointment toward Arab unfulfilled promises.

The newspaper hoped that the Amir's revelation of the Arab leaders' unfulfilled promises toward solving the Palestinian cause, would make Arab leaders realise that the Arab people cannot be cheated by "bright promises and they are weary of talk."

Al Qabas reaffirmed the Amir's words that the time is ripe now for the Arabs to prove to the world the honesty of their promises by restoring the usurped rights of the Palestinians.

The paper is now opening for serious Arab work. "The newspaper concluded.

Daily Al Watani said the Amir sincerely expressed what each Arab citizen, who cares for the Arab nation's causes, feels.

The daily emphasised the importance of the Kuwaiti ruler's call, which comes during this stage where the "oppressive powers" try to demolish the Arab people's legitimate rights and bury the Palestinian cause.

The newspaper recalled the Amir's call for the restoration of the usurped Palestinian rights, pointing out that this is the stance of Kuwait's Amir, government and people of the Palestinian cause.

S. Yemeni minister ends visit

MINISTER of State for Union Affairs of the Yemen Democratic People's Republic, Rashed Mohammed Thabit, yesterday hailed efforts and attention rendered by HH the Amir of Kuwait toward following up the latest developments of the uprising at the occupied territories.

In a pre-departure statement to Kuna yesterday, Thabit said that he relayed a message from Yemeni President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas to the Amir on means to put an end to the repressive acts by Israeli authorities against Palestinians.

With regard to relations between the two Yemeni states, the minister indicated that many political and economic steps are being taken to pave the way for unity, describing ties between the Yemens as "good and heading for the intended goal, realising Yemeni unity."

He was seen off by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osaimi and the Democratic Yemeni Ambassador to Kuwait Awad Salem Baabab.

On the possibility of recon-

Specifications for carports

KHALED Al Mohsen, the Deputy Director of Kuwait Municipality Building Department, said that several committees had been formed to establish specifications for carports built in front of houses. He added that the committee approved carports constructed from iron, fibreglass or wood, but the use of concrete foundations was illegal.

The deputy director added that carports were allowed in open areas as long as they did not interfere with traffic to neighbouring houses and that the maximum width of the carport was three metres and the length 2.5 metres. He said that the Municipality would charge 50 fils for each square metre, not to exceed KD12 per year, and that owners of carports would be required to sign a pledge to remove them

when requested by the Municipality.

He said that the Committee was submitting a recommendation for approval to the Municipal Affairs Committee to build carports for ministry and government establishments.

3 arrested for smuggling

THREE men were arrested in Jaffa for allegedly smuggling whisky and drugs into Kuwait. They were taken into custody while trying to bring in 570 whisky bottles and 1,139 drug pills. They were identified as Mosa J. and Habib A, both Iraqis and Mosa A, a non-Kuwaiti.

They have been kept in custody pending investigation.

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Saudi economy in very good shape

(Continued from Page 1)

Prince Abdullah indicated that further conferences should be held annually to discuss Arab concerns in a direct way. He said: "Before the Amman summit we were feeling that the disagreement in the Arab world had lowered Arab dignity and distorted our image in the world." He added that this made the Arab world a target for those with ambitions in the region such as Israel and Iran.

Trip

The Crown Prince commented on his trip to America and the attitude toward Arab issues, saying: "Israel is active there with well-known methods." He added that if only one cent from each barrel of oil produced in the Arab world was allocated for the purpose of making the world understand Arab causes, miracles could happen even within five to 10 years. He elaborated, saying: "If this sum is provided and supervised by well-qualified Arab youth, it will create the real channel through which we will be able to help decision-makers in the world to be just in dealing with Arab causes."

Abdullah said that crying, criticising and requesting will lead to nothing. "I personally arrived at other convictions of what the Arab world should do to defeat those forces working to distort the Arab image in the world," he said.

Regarding the eighth GCC summit conference in Riyadh, he said that the same frankness which prevailed at the Amman summit was present at the



Prince Abdullah

Riyadh summit. He said that the success of the GCC conference was due to the fact that it was held amid conditions that required decisive, collective and strong solutions in order for "our patience not to be interpreted as weakness."

Concerning the establishment of links among the GCC people, Prince Abdullah said that the GCC states had made good progress in this area, but he added: "The people demand more from us and there is no harm in this for it is the demand

of the people and it will one day be achieved."

Moving to matters of local economic concern, Abdullah said that the Saudi economy was in "very good shape." He added: "We have overcome some difficulties, the most important of which is the adaptation of the people to the new expenditure policy."

He explained that the people in the past were accustomed to huge expenditures, which, he said, were all right when huge revenues were available. He added that under the direction of King Fahd, Saudi Arabia's economy is well established and that many countries deal with them in confidence because of the strength of the economy.

during the past three years people have begun to adapt to the reasonable expenditure rates.

Trend

He said that last year witnessed a boost in the Saudi economy and that this trend was expected to continue this year. He explained that Saudi Arabia was not an oil country only and that studies indicate that other mineral resources such as gold, silver, copper and uranium will produce revenues equal to that of oil.

He said that a production company will be established soon, in partnership with the Saudi government and a number of American companies will be given concession rights to operate in a 1,600 square kilometre area.

"Shares will be offered in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf," Prince Abdullah said, "and experts estimate that its revenues may be equal to that of oil."

He emphasised that the Saudi economy stands on the same foundation as any other well-established economy: agriculture, industry and trade.

He said that in the agricultural field, Saudi Arabia has become an exporting country.

He added that the Saudi industrial base was expanding and that commercially they have an internal market with a huge purchasing power.

Finally, the Crown Prince said that under the direction of King Fahd, Saudi Arabia's economy is well established and that many countries deal with them in confidence because of the strength of the economy.



A farewell reception was held for the outgoing Tunisian Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. The ambassador (left) is receiving a guest. A large number of diplomats and officials attended.

Cabinet welcomes Mubarak's visit

KUWAIT yesterday welcomed the visit to the country today by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as part of his current tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

A cabinet statement issued yesterday said President Mubarak's visit comes in the context of continuous consultations among brothers in respect of all that will realise supreme national interests.

Following a regular cabinet session yesterday, under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, the government's spokesman stated that the council took note of the correspondence exchanged between HH the Amir and King Hassan of Morocco dwelling on the Al Quds (Jerusalem) Committee's meeting recently chaired by the Moroccan monarch.

"The Amir of Kuwait," said the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed, "wished in his message success to the committee's meetings, which manifest the commitment of taking Muslim action at this stage where our Arab Palestinian people in the occupied lands are subjected to brutal crimes at the hands of

Zionist occupation forces."

The Council of Ministers, according to the official, was also informed of the message received by the Amir from PLO chairman Yasser Arafat which the latter pledged determination of the Palestinian people to continue struggle by all means and capabilities until attainment of their just goals and appreciated Kuwait's consistent stance and support of the Palestinian cause.

The Premier reported to the cabinet on the short visit paid last Wednesday to Kuwait by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara during which they conveyed a message to the Amir from Syrian President Hafez Assad, Rashed said, adding that the council was kept informed on context of talks held with the Syrian delegation which focused on the overall Arab situation and bilateral ties.

Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah reported to the council on the visit by US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and the talks he had which centred on developments in the Arab Gulf region, exerted efforts to implement the world resolution for halting the Iraq-Iran war and means to boost existing bilateral cordial relations between the two friendly countries.

Rashed said the cabinet session also took note of the results of the recent Amman meeting held by the Arab economic eight-man committee assigned to study performance of Arab financial institutions and lending agencies as given by Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi and outcome of the latter's visit to Egypt aimed at strengthening economic exchange and investment cooperation.

Budgets prepared for ministries

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Planning has prepared the budgets of all ministries for the fiscal year 1987/1988, according to an Arabic newspaper report.

The budget requirements were studied by the programmes and budget department before laying out finances for all public services, including construction.

They have also selected consultants to supervise important projects such as the construction of the new Amiri Diwan and the Council of Ministers buildings. Kuwaiti aid to foreign countries has also been evaluated. Aid for Arab, Islamic and other world organisations has also been specified.

A number of long-term plans on manpower, education and social development have been made by the ministry. A plan to upgrade education, encourage training and research studies is being implemented by the Manpower Resources Development Department. It is based on the progress made during January 1986 to June 1987.

Educational planning envisages development of national manpower. Several studies on how to develop Kuwaiti manpower have been prepared.

Priority is being given to computerisation and micro-filming at various departments in the plans laid out for the next few years.

The benefit of all the plans would be evident in the long term and cannot be gauged at the moment, a source at the ministry said.

Convoy arrives in Kuwait waters

WASHINGTON, Jan 10 (AP): The second US Navy escort operation in 1988 of re-registered tankers through the Gulf ended this morning when the convoy arrived safely in Kuwaiti waters, the Pentagon said.

Ships of the US Central Command's joint task force, Middle East escorted the Middletown and the Chesapeake City on the 600-mile (1,000 kms) trip through the Gulf that ended about 1430 GMT.

The convoy, which began Jan 7 in the Gulf of Oman, included the guided-missile frigates USS Elrod and USS McClusky. The transit proceeded through the Gulf uneventfully, with no unusual air or naval activity reported, the Pentagon said.

Ground prepared for cutback in number of US ships

Carlucci ends Gulf tour

Bahrain, Jan 10. (Reuters): US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci ended his first Gulf tour today after preparing the ground for a modest cutback in US warships.

Carlucci left Riyadh and arrived in Paris yesterday after a week-long visit to Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Western diplomats said the thrust of Carlucci's trip had been to reassure Gulf states of US support, while at the same time examining ways to cut the Pentagon's spiralling costs.

Carlucci's task was not made easier by reports from Washington that the United States was about to withdraw the minehunter.

ing helicopter carrier Okinawa and battleship Iowa.

Carlucci, said no decision had been made, but diplomats expect a formal cutback will be announced after he returns to Washington and consults Reagan.

That would be consistent with what diplomats see as a drive by Carlucci, two months in the top Pentagon job, to cut costs incurred by a Middle East task force of more than 30 warships protecting US-flag tankers.

Carlucci also met Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz during a red carpet stay in Riyadh, but diplomatic sources said no new arms deals had been concluded.

Prince Sultan said in an interview with the London-based Saudi newspaper Asharq Al Awsat today there had been no discussion on arms.

High-technology weapons deals proposed by Washington have often been blocked by a powerful pro-Israeli lobby in Congress, leading to tensions with Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia plays a key role in air defence for the whole Gulf region through US-built Awacs surveillance aircraft based in Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz during a red carpet stay in Riyadh, but diplomatic

Hanan Village to open soon



Lulwah Al Qatami and Modi Al Hajji pictured with engineers and their families at the village.

THE Hanan Village in the Sudan is to open shortly and will accommodate 300 Eritrean children, according to Lulwah Al Qatami, chairwoman of the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society.

Al Qatami was recently in the Sudan to oversee the final preparations for the opening of the village. The self-contained

village was built by the society and the Arabic magazine, Ustrati, and is said to be the most "humanitarian project" undertaken by them.

The village has a school, a clinic, a mosque and houses for the children. A bakery built in the village complex has begun production and makes 50,000

Waiting could take as long as four months

Dentists unable to cope with rush

GETTING an appointment with the dentists at government dental centres can take as long as four months as the waiting list grows bigger and bigger each month. Dentists are unable to cope with the rush, inspite of expansion of services, said the head of the Dental Centre, Dr Badr Al Aidan.

Dentists treat 126,721 patients with a daily average of 4,220 at the 17 clinics around the country, according to a report in an Arabic newspaper. There are 35 Kuwaiti and 51 non-Kuwaiti dentists at the centre.

In addition to the Dental Centre in Kuwait City, there are branches in Farwania, Jahra and Fahheel. This includes the dental clinics spread over the country.

Justified

The report quoted the head of the Dental Centre, Dr Badr Al Aidan, as saying the dentists work under pressure and are unable to cope with the rising number of patients. He justified the waiting list for appointments, extending to four months, saying

priority is given to problem cases. Children are given immediate attention, even if they require a cavity filling or are seeking treatment for routine dental diseases.

Top priority is given to surgical cases. Such patients are given appointments within 10 days. For polishing and cleaning teeth, it may take longer. "Cleaning is considered a maintenance job. It can wait," he explained.

"Minor cases can be treated at health centres. It is not necessary to come to the dental clinics," said Dr Al Aidan.

Burden

Greater health awareness has put an extra burden on dental services. More and more people want to "get rid of their teeth or seek dentures," he said.

He advised patients not to have their teeth removed. "Some patients insist on dentures and want their teeth pulled out. This seems such a waste as original teeth cannot be replaced by dentures. Some diseases of the teeth and gums can be treated," he said.

Dr Al Aidan urged parents to tell their children to care for their teeth. "Dental hygiene must be taught from an early age," he said.

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Teachers blame violent television programmes for indiscriminate and unruly behaviour at school. Mohammad Ahmed Al Khodari, principal of the Ibn Haitham School, said "TV should be more educational. Violent television affects the child adversely." The school should also create social awareness among children. Such a project at his school, he said, had proved successful.

Exchanging

He said that UAE is always keen to put Arab relations in the corrected frame, noting that UAE's firm and political principles call for uniting the Arab ranks.

The Egyptian official pinpointed Sheikh Zayed's efforts toward Egypt particularly during the Amman's summit last year. He added such a stance emanates from the president's keen of higher Arab interest and joint Arab work.

Nucleus

Students are rebelling, said Naderah Al Rayes, headmistress of the Al Mansoura School. "This is a type of deviation caused by social and psychological problems," she explained. Al Rayes urges parents to cooperate with schools and talk over problems with their children.

"The family must shoulder a part of the responsibility. Absence of family interest in a child's development leads to delinquency," she declared.

Young people must be urged to channel their energies into "productive ventures" and a spirit of responsibility must be inculcated in them, she added.

The headmaster of the Issa Al Louhani School, Jasseron Al Hadhoud, said if the school is to be the nucleus of education, everyone must come forward and pool resources for the benefit of the child and in a larger context for the good of the society.

This is a turning point in my life," said the young student when asked about his sessions with the sociologist. Meshal says he has become an "ideal student" and is doing well in studies. He blamed his unruly behaviour on lack of parental control and feels

EVENTS

Review of Kaash

Bhatt's self-defeating endeavour

By Subhash K. Jha

MAHESH BHATT will never make *Saansh* again. He should stop trying, though. The almost pathological obsession with death and its finality has become a major hurdle in the way of plenary self-expression. Bhatt must snap out of this narcissism — the desire to make every film mirror his own soul — before it snaps him off from the orbit of artistry.

With *Kaash*, viewers hoped to see Bhatt achieve a synthesis of the popular and the intellectual. Films like *Arth*, *Saansh* and *Jaanam* carried the flagrant imprint of Bhatt's lacerated soul. With *Naam* he self-consciously veered to the other extreme with a popular entertainer which was over-rated by the director's admirers in the press.

Kaash compromises between the two extremes. An uneasy and ultimately unsuccessful compromise. (The experimental phase in Bhatt's career — films like *Manzilein Aur Bhi Hain*, *Vishwasgat* and *Lahore Ke Do Rang* have been deliberately ignored).

For *Arth*, Bhatt turned to his own troubled marriage for inspiration. In *Kaash* he borrows from his leading lady Dimple's tempestuous past and her relationship with Rajesh Khanna. Bhatt can deny it but the virulent relationship between Pooja and the fading superstar Ritesh in *Kaash* is patterned on Dimple and Rajesh Khanna's troubled past.

Situations

Most Bhatt invariably seek a structural foundation from real-life incidents? Can't he make a film about situations he is familiar with? Of course, there is nothing morally wrong in such derived dramatisations, as long as they are honest in their intent. *Kaash* is in reality an untruthful film. It lies about all the things which we have been asked to believe through Bhatt's films. Undeniably, the man-woman relationship has been tackled with merciless Mitheshesque irony.

Indeed, the first half of *Kaash* has unforgettable moments enacted finely by the two lead players. The screen crackles with the tension between the frustrated alcoholic and his hard-to-please wife, as their young son Romi watches the violence helplessly.

Rigid

But *Kaash* hoodwinks the audience by cheating on fundamental issues in the script. It believes — and wants us to believe — superstars are made and unmade overnight — with just one film. It is preposterous to base the plot on the presumption that one unsuccessful production can throw a superstar to the brink of bankruptcy and beyond, and that he would be abandoned by the entire industry for committing the sin of failure. For example *Jeetendra* produced one of the most crushing failures in the history of Indian cinema — *Deedar-e-Yaar* — and bounced back on the buoyancy of goodwill and luck. Rajesh Khanna is the classic example of an ex-superstar. As we all know, he is still treated like a king. Surprisingly Bhatt, who is so much a part of the mainstream industry, has chosen to be so hypocritical about its depiction! Even dramatic license has its limits, after which it begins to look grotesque, especially in a film ostensibly about "real people."

From this starting point of deceitful dramatisation, *Kaash*



Dimple Kapadia and Jackie Shroff in Kaash.

almost effortlessly falls deeper and deeper into the quagmire of misrepresentations.

Bhatt glibly flaunts his many rigid notions about love and life. One such concern is about the status of the working woman in the Indian society: the single-divorcee is easy prey. Anupam Kher says as much when Pooja (Dimple Kapadia) is attacked by a drunken lecher and the Gallahad with a weird wig rushes to his rescue — not very dramatic! Similarly, Pooja in *Arth* was attacked when she moves out of her husband's home. (Significantly, there was no rescue effort in *Arth*).

Amusing

The director is forever absorbed in his egoistic world of ruptured alliances and cruel deaths. The world according to Bhatt is an exceptionally unthinking place where sensitive souls are destined to suffer. Alok and Pooja perform highly dramatic sequences which just don't work. One is the scene in which Alok informs Pooja about Romi's illness, and the other is when Alok raises the topic of their marriage while Romi is dying. Both are extraordinarily intense situations demanding hysteria. Pooja's response, though starkly genuine, does not coordinate with the mood of the situation. They are hopelessly incompetent scenes.

The character of Ritesh most pointedly reveals the director's machochism. The manner in which Ritesh demeans himself once the slide downhill begins is not at all amusing. The tendency is clearly self-destructive driving Ritesh headlong into the disaster zone.

Ritesh becomes an alcoholic and loses the woman he loves along with his stardom. Ultimately, nature conspires to snatch his dearly loved son. Agreed, failure comes in bunches. But Ritesh isn't the average man-in-the-dumps. He is the director's bleeding soul in person. The volatile Bhatt has confessed his guilt for being a part of the synthetic cinema world. Well, Ritesh is the fading star, being punished for being successful. The script repeatedly invents situations to humiliate the character. Examples abound in *Kaash* like Ritesh being insulted by the sour-faced star (Dilip Tahil) for asking the pittance. Then there is a horrendous party scene wherein Ritesh gatecrashes with son in tow, steals money and is assaulted. Compare this vulpine sequence with the party scene in *Arth*. In *Kaash*, Bhatt seems to parody his own style in scene after scene. That is when the film isn't seeking inspiration from Hollywood tear-jerkers about the father-son relationship like Kramer vs Kramer and The Champ.

Climax

Before the interval *Kaash* is enormously rewarding viewing. There is taut tension in the initial scenes, endowing the proceedings with immense vitality. Once the son's illness is disclosed, the film begins to hem and haw, with tears and chuckles uneasily aligned with metaphysical ideas. The climax is incredibly lax and the death scene — ludicrous? Bhatt seems to become wary of the melodrama after finding the perfect formula for a tear-jerking sequence (a terminally ill child). Therefore, Bhatt tempered the naked sentimentalism with a mantle of existentialism. This superficiality is wonderfully apt in *Saansh*. In *Kaash* it looks silly and awkward, especially when it is punctuated by heavy hip-wriggling in hill stations. One further misgiving remains: would any father tell his child he is dying, no matter how mature the son might be? Would any child accept it so stoically, as though he knew the meaning of death already? Romi's petulance and frustration as the day approaches is

much more credible: "Why can't you save me if you really love me?" How does any parent answer that?

The performances by the lead players — Jackie Shroff and Dimple Kapadia — redeem *Kaash*. Dimple's identification with her role seems near-perfect. She gives her best to the role, and then a little more. In the emotional scenes, she works herself into a frightening frenzy, gulping for air as she chokes on her sputum. But the show belongs to Jackie Shroff. Shroff gives a bewitching blend of vulnerability, vigour and violence to the role. For all his frailties, the character of Ritesh is the film's greatest strength. Despite his unheroic stature, the degradations of the script, there is a core of incorruptibility and innocence in the character, brilliantly portrayed by Shroff.

Fantasy

Kaash vacillates between a child-like innocence and an ostentatious worldly wisdom. On the one hand there is the Aladdin sequence signifying pure fantasy; on the other is the much publicised love scene between the lead pair, trying frantically to woo the crowds. Such compromise alloys the original intent of the script. But as in all Mahesh Bhatt films, there are sequences which leave a lasting impression. At the end, after the tragedy, Pooja wishes to return to Ritesh. One can understand the uncontrollable desire to be near the only person who can truly share the grief. But the manner in which she pleads for "another chance" makes you think of the Pooja who became totally independent in the course of the film. Pooja, like the film, doesn't grow at all. She ruins the reunion by saying "Give me another Romi." This one line sums the lip-smacking sentimentality. *Kaash* is a dangerously self-defeating endeavour, trapped between veracity and pretensions. It leaves you with a feeling not distinct from it is like. Yet, you'll remember Jackie Shroff's performance and flashes of brilliance shown by Dimple in some parts of the film.



Shekhar Azmi and Kulbhushan Kharbanda in Arth.

Hotel. For further details contact Tel: 5385663.

FILMS

British Council

Bedknobs Broomsticks, a film for younger viewers, will be shown at 6 pm on Jan 13 (Wednesday) and at 10.30 am on Jan 14, at the British Council in Mansouria. It is a film for all ages, featuring a full-filled world of fantasy: a hilarious soccer game where crocodiles, elephants and other animals kick up a storm; brass beds fly, nightgowns dance and witches' brooms sweep away young and old alike. It lasts 97 minutes. Admission is free but reservations must be made. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

SOCIAL

Sargam Music Show

Sargam, a local group, will hold a music show at Messilah Beach Hotel at 6.30 pm on Feb. 3. A selection of popular Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi and English songs will be presented. Entertainment also includes fire dance, lava dance and a magic show. For details phone

3260455, 7 am to 3 pm.

Piano Concert

German pianist Wolfram Lorenzen will give a recital on Jan 19 (8pm) in the Grand Ballroom of the Kuwait Hilton. He will play works by Ravel, Schumann, Listz and Chopin. For further details contact the hotel.

Konkani Drama

The New G.O.A. presents Freddy J. D'Costa's play *Khata Pita Dev Dita* on Jan 14 (8pm), Jan 15 (3pm) and 16 (7pm). The troupe from Goa including Jacinto Vaz will perform at the new Indian Arts Circle hall in Finaitees. Transport available from City. For reservations contact the Raja Stores.

Ladies Tea Party

A saree fashion show will be held at the International Ladies Tea Party meeting on Jan 20, Wednesday, from 4.30 pm at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. For details call 5317390.

KLT

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are looking for pianists for a summer musical coming up in March. For further details call 3985246.

Kuwait Cultural Centre

Businessman's lunch buffet, featuring three main course dishes, salads and sweets buffet; tea/coffee, offered daily at Al Dana Restaurant.

At the Holiday Inn

Businessman's lunch buffet, featuring three main course dishes, salads and sweets buffet; tea/coffee, offered daily at Al Dana Restaurant.

At the Hilton

La Palma features Oriental, Continental and International cuisine as well as a large array of sweets and desserts for lunch and dinner buffet. Failsafe on the 19th floor features a specialty menu for lunch and dinner.

At the Continental

Gardenia offers food and beverage service on the Terrace. Daily dinner buffet and on Fridays, lunch buffet with charcoal grilled specialities. Darbar features daily lunch buffet and a la carte for dinner.

At Messilah Beach

Al Mubarakiah features special lunch and dinner buffets. Open 24 hours.

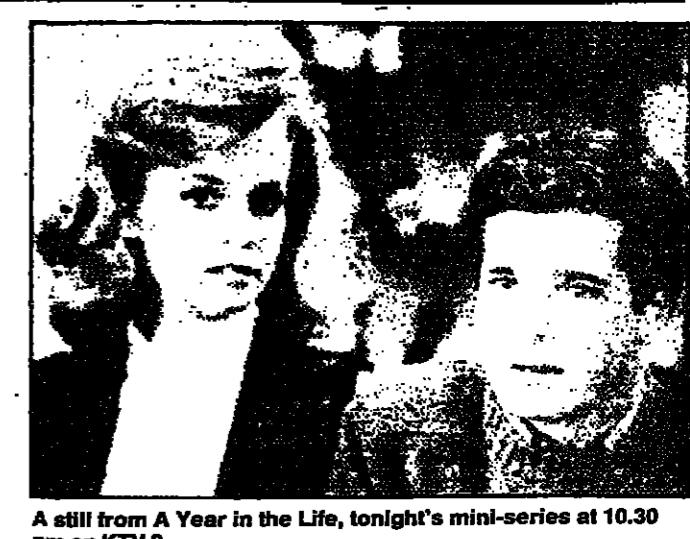
At the Meridien

Jumbo shrimp promotion in La Brasserie, the Versailles and Oasis Restaurant. The promotion continues until January 14.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News Via Satellite
3.30 Hakim Al Aqazam: cartoon serial
4.00 News Summary
4.45 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial featuring Yusuf Shabaaan, Hale Fakher, Ragda
5.30 Mama Anisa and Children
6.00 Dirasat Taqniyah: Technological Studies
7.00 News Summary
7.05 Weekend: repeat
7.35 Quran and Science: hosted by Dr Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim
8.15 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Anzaar: daily Arabic serial
10.50 Daeraat Al Ahdath: "Circle of Events". A weekly talk show on topical subjects. Tonight, a look at rehabilitation of disabled people. Guests are Abdul Rahman Salem Al Atiqi; Essa Yassin; Mohammad Hamad Al Humaidi.
11.45 News Summary
11.50 World News Via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran: Closedown



A still from A Year in the Life, tonight's mini-series at 10.30 pm on KTV 2.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Yogis Treasure Hunt: cartoons
6.30 The Animal Express: a look at giraffes and monkeys. Guest star is Patrick Duffy.
7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.
7.30 Chintz: two couples fight over a piece of furniture.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Law and Harry MacGraw: the story of a female lawyer and a private eye who work together to fight crime.

9.30 Horizon: BBC documentary. "Nice Guys Finish First". Live and let live is the theme of this programme, presented by the author of The Selfish Gene.

10.30 Mini-Series: "A Year in the Life". The lives and the relationships of the Gardner family are traced after a death in the family.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine: D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

30 The Vintage Chart Show
1100 World News
09.30 News from Britain
15 Health Matters
30 Album Time
1200 Radio Newsreel
15 4th and 11th My Music: 18th and 25th Just A Minute
15 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
45 First Recordings of British Symphonies
0200 World News
09 Commentary
15 Good Books
30 Anything Goes
0300 World News
07 News about Britain
15 Good Books
30 Anything Goes
0400 Newsmagazine
30 Five William Stories
45 Reflections
50 Waveguide
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
0600 Newsdesk
30 4th and 11th The Legacy of the Sixties: 18th and 25th Australia 200 Years On
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 4th and 11th Housing the World: 18th and 25th Rescuing the Rhine
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 Five William Stories
30 Anything Goes
0900 British World News
09 British Press Review
15 Good Books
3 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Peebles' Choice
1000 News Summary followed by 11th The Legacy of the Sixties: 18th and 25th Australia 200 Years On

MORNING
08.00 Opening
08.02 Songs and Music
08.05 Science Journal
08.30 Songs and Music
08.45 Songs and Music
08.45 Daily Programme
09.00 Songs and Music
09.15 Writers and Their Works
09.30 Radio Magazine Supplement
10.00 Our Press Today
10.05 Songs and Music
10.30 Songs and Music
11.00 Closedown
12.30 News on the FM Service

EVENING
21.00 Opening
21.02 Bits and Bites
21.05 News
21.45 Point of View
21.55 Songs and Music
22.00 Facts about Zionism
22.15 Magazine Special
22.45 Daily Programme
23.00 Pops
24.00 Closedown

FM Services

08.00-09.30 Easy Listening
08.30-08.40 News
08.40-10.00 Easy Listening
10.00-13.30 Songs and Music
13.30-14.30 Easy Listening
14.30-15.30 Songs and Music
15.30-16.00 Easy Listening
16.00-17.00 Easy Listening
17.00-18.00 Latin American
18.00-19.00 Pops
19.00-20.00 Heiter Skeler
20.00-21.30 Pops
21.30-21.45 News
21.45-22.00 Pops
22.00-23.30 Jazz
23.00-24.00 Easy Listening
24.00-02.00 Instrumental Listening

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Al Nimir Wal Uns (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Al Salmiya
Out of Bounds
Starring: Anthony Michael Hall, Jenny Wright, Jeff Cooper
Al Hamra
Cry Onion
Starring: Franco Nero
Al Firdous
Satte pe Satta (Hindi)
Starring: Hema Malini, Amitabh Bachchan

Fahheel Open-Air
Anand (Hindi)
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Amitabh Bachchan
Al Hakim

Al-Fahheel

Ajanta (Malayalam)

Al Jabra

Final Justice

Granada

Heartbreak Ridge

Salaibkhait

Roar

Al Jeeb

Miss Lolita (Bengali)

Drive-In

Al Nimir Wal Uns (Arabic)

Starring: Adel Imam, Athar

Al Hakim

Ahmadi Drive-In

One Crazy Summer

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.19 am
Zohr 11.56
Asr 2.49
Maghreb 5.03
Isha 6.26

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I AM always ready to learn, but I do not always like to be taught—Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

OPINION

Welcome Mubarak

WE in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, welcome the visit of the Arab leader of Egypt, and while welcoming him, we remember that while we were tough against his country and his people, we simply prayed to God to guide the Arab nations. They were guided and realised that the whole world wants them disunited in order to dominate them and exploit their wealth and resources. The world wanted us, the Arabs, to remain disunited because they knew that our solidarity would be dangerous.

Welcome is the word that reflects the feelings of all in this region because they realise that Egypt, with its 7,000-year-old history, remains the Egypt they know, and with its people, leadership and geographic significance, speaks for itself.

If leaders are the ones who create the international and regional relations for their countries, President Hosni Mubarak has done for Egypt what many leaders have failed to do for their countries. The leadership of Mubarak created for Egypt a power that is greatly felt in the international arena because of its true commitment to and respect for international and regional agreements and by recognising that political affairs are not practised through personal taste but through logic and reason.

Egypt has succeeded in restoring political and economic trust and is ready to harvest the fruit yielded by President Hosni Mubarak's principles. He is welcomed now by the people of the Gulf and the peninsula as a leader of truth and purity.

This leadership of Mubarak took Egypt away from the attraction of personal interests and is a leadership that feels for all of the people. It is a leadership that does not fear freedom in Egypt while at the same time does not fear stopping who exploits this freedom to harm others.

The current tour of President Mubarak to the Gulf and peninsula will give him the chance to see how true leaders are welcomed and supported and loved by these people, and when he returns to Egypt he will see how the Egypt of Mubarak has restored confidence in the Arab world.

The period of 30 years, when relations between Egypt and this region were unstable, was characterised by recognition of Egypt by the people of this region without their rulers. Now the relations are complete, both the people and rulers hold the banner of respect for Egypt under the leadership of Mubarak.

A warm welcome for President Mubarak, who succeeded in doing what others had failed; restoring relations with the world and regaining its past glory.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

New push to end war in Afghanistan

By Hugh Pain

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): With a senior Soviet Minister in Kabul last week, a US mission in Islamabad, the United Nations mediator due shortly in both capitals and peace talks imminent in Geneva, a new push to end the Afghan war appears to be under way.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin said in New Delhi last week the round of Geneva talks expected next month could be the last — and could succeed.

And US analysts said the Reagan administration had no interest in prolonging the nine-year Afghan war.

"Definitely not," Robert Neumann, former US Ambassador to Kabul, said in Washington. "Because this is a difficult problem for Pakistan, in which we have a very important position."

Pakistan, unwilling host to up to five million Afghan refugees and the main refuge for the guerrillas fighting the Moscow-backed government in Kabul, has its own internal and external pressures and is equally eager to end the war.

So, says Western diplomats in Moscow, is the Soviet leadership.

War-weariness

The diplomats said there was increasing evidence of war-weariness among Soviet foreign policy makers and of tension between Moscow and President Najibullah in Kabul.

The timetable for pulling back the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops is no longer the major issue.

The rebels want the troops out in eight months, and Adamishin said in New Delhi the Soviet Union had "taken a strong decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan in 12 months — it could even be earlier."

Officially, Moscow says the continued supply of US arms to the rebels via Pakistan is the biggest remaining barrier to peace.

But Western diplomats say the question is what kind of a government the departing troops will leave behind them.

The Soviet Union wants to

Civilian governments in Latin America and the Caribbean took hard knocks from the military, billionaire drug lords and extremist guerrillas

Assault on democracy

By Bernd Debusman

MEXICO CITY, (Reuters): In Haiti, roving gangs of soldiers and paramilitary thugs go on a killing spree to break up the first democratic elections in 30 years. Mission accomplished: the ballot is postponed.

In Ecuador, Air Force commandos seize the President, put a gun at his head and demand the release of a dissident officer awaiting trial for mutiny. Requests granted.

In Argentina, infantry units rebel, demanding an end to human rights trials and the dismissal of the Army chief of staff. He steps down, the government remains under military rule.

In Colombia, professional killers murder every judge who extradites a cocaine trafficker to the United States. The supreme court annuls the US-Colombian Extradition Treaty.

In Peru, a court issues orders to suspend the planned nationalisation of banks. The government uses tanks, tear gas and paramilitary police to take over the banks by force.

Over the past year, democracy took hard knocks in the Caribbean and Latin America, put to the test by the military, billionaire drug lords, extremist guerrillas — and civilian politicians who set their own rules for the democratic game.

"As we have seen again in 1987, there are limits to the full exercise of parliamentary democracy in a region where

authoritarian leadership has long traditions," said a European diplomat and specialist on Latin affairs.

Since 1979, nine countries in the region have switched from military dictatorships to democracy: Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay and Brazil. Panama adopted the trappings of democracy but effectively remained under military rule.

Gruesome

In Nicaragua and Haiti, dictators were toppled but promises of freedom remained unfulfilled.

Haiti provided a gruesome case in point. Three decades of Duvalier family rule ended in February, 1986, when popular protest forced Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier to flee.

His military successor, General Henri Namphy, promised free elections by November 1987. But he did not move decisively against Duvalier loyalists in the Army or members of the dictator's secret police, the Tontons Macoute.

On election day, November 29, 1987, Army elements and gunmen in civilian clothes joined an orgy of violence against Haitians queuing to cast their votes. At least 37 died, some hacked to pieces by machete, and elections were postponed.

While black, Creole-speaking Haiti is not typical of Latin America, military forces in much of the region share values which pose a latent threat to the fledgling democracies.

With few exceptions, the de-

potive conservative, fiercely anti-communist and staunchly nationalist Latin American military men deny the repression, torture and killing under military-run governments was wrong.

Many officers regard themselves as saviors of their nations from the evils of communism and say that the ends justified whatever means they employed.

"In Argentina, as elsewhere in Latin America, the armed forces remain convinced they were right," said Emilio Mignone, a prominent Buenos Aires lawyer and expert on the excesses of the "dirty war" against Argentine leftists.

"The military have not changed with the advent of democracy. They are the same men, with the same ideas," he added.

It was resentment over what they considered unfair treatment by President Raul Alfonsin's government which caused military revolts over Easter 1987.

The uprisings led to legislative limits on trials of military men involved in the killing of some 9,000 people during the dirty war.

Eight months after the revolt, the Argentine Navy threatened another rebellion unless Alfonsin agreed to the promotion of an officer accused of human rights abuses. The officer, Alfredo Astiz, was duly promoted.

Elsewhere in Latin America, elected leaders made concessions to the armed forces in Guatemala, El Salvador, Uruguay and Peru, where 4,000



People were massacred at many voting centres in Haiti to break up the first democratic elections in 30 years. (Reuters wirephoto)

squads who are systematically murdering leftists.

The most prominent victim in 1987 was Jaime Pardo Leal, leader of the Patriotic Union (UP). He was the latest of some 500 UP activists murdered since the party was formed in 1983.

Even where established traditions of freedom exist, democracy is being put to tough tests.

Colombia, for instance, has enjoyed democratic government through most of this century. Its media are widely considered the best in the region. Parliamentary life is vibrant.

Yet Colombian democracy is under immense strain, under assault from ruthless drug lords, and more than 50 judges. As far as drug-related crime is concerned, Colombia's justice system has been intimidated to the point

of paralysis.

On Dec 30, a Bogota judge released Jorge Luis Ochoa. He walked to freedom a month after Colombian drug lords threatened a "blood bath" if he were handed to the United States, which has offered a \$500,000 reward for his capture.

"We would execute without further considerations the main political leaders of the traditional parties," they said in a statement issued to Colombian newspapers.

"Where criminals can enforce the law of the jungle and defy the state, you are closer to anarchy than to democracy," one prominent judge commented.

Peacemaker's image is more appealing than that of Rambo

By Helen Thomas

WASHINGTON, (UPI): The most dramatic year of Ronald Reagan's Presidency began in the depths of the Iran-Contra scandal and culminated at the heights of a summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Such a conference would end the Americans' role as the exclusive Mideast peace broker and formally usher the Soviets into the centre of the region's political arena.

The proposed international naval force also would insert the Soviets into what has until now been a strictly US-led Western role in the Gulf.

But still unclear is how far the Gulf Arabs are prepared to go in seeking wider Soviet involvement in the region.

Seriously

Although the Arabs would prefer a US presence in the Gulf, there are reservations because of Washington's staunch support for Israel.

The US State Department said on Dec 28 it was willing to study, without commitment, a Soviet proposal for a UN naval force in the Gulf if the Security Council approved an arms embargo against Iran.

"The idea of an international naval force in the Gulf is being viewed seriously, because the US role was not sufficient to deter Iran," said a well-placed Gulf shipping executive, who insisted on anonymity.

"The Americans have been protecting only ships that fly the US flag, leaving the Iranians to raid ships of other nationalities and fire missiles at Kuwait's oil facilities," the source said.

Reagan may have found out

that the image of peacemaker is even more appealing to a weary world than that of a rampaging Rambo. Clearly he has toned down his high noon profile to reach an accommodation with Moscow.

Catalyst

Domestic problems, particularly a shaky economy, may have been one of the catalysts to bring about the new INF treaty and a general backing off from a confrontational climate.

When the aftershow wears off, both leaders may find themselves at odds on some of the real issues separating capitalism from communism. And Reagan has lost no opportunity to stress that he has not changed his view that the Soviet Union is still an "evil empire."

But the President, who has proclaimed so often, "I am a conservative," ran into a fusillade from his favourite constituents, those on his party's right, who accused him of aping Gorbachev.

The president's loose style,

and uncertain trumpet, detachment from responsibility has become more and more apparent in his waning days.

The Tower commission was formed and later reported that Reagan's hands off management style had contributed to the scandal. A congressional committee, after hearing North and Pointe's testimony, admitted that they had been deceived by Congress, altered reports and shredded and burned official documents, said that Reagan had failed to "faithfully execute the laws of the land" and if he didn't know what was going on, he should have.

Reagan's reaction, according to White House chief of staff Howard Baker, was that he "really, really, felt put upon."

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Self-restraint producing some results

Criticism of Iran toned down

By Aly Mahmoud

RIYADH, (AP): Gulf Arab leaders, alarmed at the widening impact of the Iran-Iraq war, have toned down criticism of Iran and advocated measures to end the conflict, including an international peace-keeping fleet with Soviet ships.

There are signs that their self-restraint may be producing some results.

Arab diplomatic sources reported that Syria, Iran's closest Arab friend, has persuaded Tehran to delay a new ground offensive and open a dialogue with the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, an alliance of Arab countries sympathetic to Iraq.

The Riyadh communiqué also called on the UN Security Council to "shoulder its responsibilities" and implement its July 20 resolution, which calls for an arms embargo to enforce a Gulf war ceasefire.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, stressed that the Gulf states expect the Soviet Union to support that move.

The Soviet Union is a permanent member of the Security Council and has specific responsibility for world peace and stability," he noted.

The six Gulf Arab leaders decided to dispatch envoys to the five permanent Security Council members — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — to press for enforcement of the July 20 resolution.

Saudi Arabia and Iran have been at loggerheads over the Gulf war and riots in the holy city of Makkah last July 31, in which 425 pilgrims were killed.

The Kuwaitis, too, are increasingly at odds with Teheran over a string of Iranian missile attacks and terrorist strikes by pro-Iranians. Iran accuses Kuwait of aiding Iraq.

Diplomats expected the Riyadh meeting to produce a sharp denunciation of Iran and Baghdad if the talks fail to

produce significant concessions.

All previous mediation efforts have foundered because Tehran has insisted on the ouster of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and him being branded the aggressor.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said at the Riyadh meeting that Gulf Arabs might have to invite foreign powers to help with their defence, a hint that they could turn to Egypt, the Arab world's strongest power, or others for military support.

Informed Arab sources said Fahd's remark was aimed mainly at bolstering Kuwait, which registered its tankers in the US.

Knowledgeable sources said Sultan Qaboos of Oman and Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, talked Fahd into toning down his statement. Both have long advocated dialogue with Teheran.

The sources said that to avoid conflict, the official Saudi Press Agency, which distributed the King's address, deleted the reference to the option of enlisting foreign help for defence.

Jordanian columnist Rakan Majali noted: "That was the first Gulf summit to evolve a practical and realistic action strategy, attuned to the spirit of the Amman summit.

"What we have is applicable talk. The Gulf powers appear to be serious about defining their combined objectives and carving their path."

The Riyadh meeting endorsed the idea of an international naval force in the Gulf to protect shipping.

Attended by the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and Germany, the summit also agreed to a five-year plan to end the conflict.

US officials said the plan would be implemented by the end of 1988.

Iranian officials said they would be involved in the peace process.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said the plan would be implemented by the end of 1988.

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Smile, you're on candid camera

Focussing on the eighties

Actor Ben Kingsley stripped off for her, Bob Hoskins jumped in her shower and Michael Caine invited her for breakfast at his restaurant. So who is this woman and what is her charm?

By Jo Mears

SHE'S Gemma Levine, a photographer, who has been taking portraits of the famous faces of the eighties.

Gemma has photographed more than 300 faces for a new book and exhibition, and it wasn't easy. She had only a year for the project and sometimes there were only a few seconds in which to capture the celebrities on film.

Newspaper baron Robert Maxwell allowed her one click of the camera and then told her to be off. Margaret Thatcher promised half an hour and then disappeared after only eight minutes and Dynasty star Joan Collins spared just five minutes of her precious time before swanning off to a social engagement.

In the past hectic year, a long list of British leading lights, from artists and sportsmen to



A shot of Gemma Levine taken by her actor friend, Peter Bowles.

businessmen and royalty have flitted through Gemma's lens.

There's a muscular Frank Bruno in his gym, a conoodling couple Torvill and Dean and a bare-backed Ben Kingsley with "piercing eyes."

"He ripped off his clothes and said 'here I am,'" recalls Gemma, adding quickly, "But only to the waist."

Braven Bob Hoskins went even further and took all his clothes off, diving into a shower and re-emerging dripping for a wet-look photo which made quite a splash!

How did unknown photographer Gemma Levine manage to coax these normally reticent stars to come forward and have their mugs shot?

Because it's all for a good cause — the money from the book and exhibition go to the Sharon Allen Leukaemia Trust, set up in 1984 to raise money to provide care and

work. He says: "She has a genius for putting her sitters completely at ease and photographs them in unguarded moments when they are not straining for effect."

But Joan Collins wins top marks as model.

Gemma says: "She knew exactly how to move more than anyone else I photographed. She's one of those super-professionals."

But Miss Collins, as vain as the Alexis she plays, insisted in giving her pic the once over before allowing it to be released. We couldn't have an Alexis with wrinkles could we?

At the press view of the exhibition, Helena Bonham-Carter, star of 'Room with a View', commented: "I rather like sitting for Gemma ... usually I phase out when I have my picture taken. It's seeing the picture afterwards which is the worst... but I like Gemma's portraits."

Dashing actor Peter Bowles adds: "She has a very strong and a very warm personality and she's a joy to be with."

John Gielgud has such a pleasant and relaxing time with Gemma he didn't want to leave!

Photography

Gemma, a former interior designer took up photography only ten years ago with a simple Instamatic camera. She started out photographing views, blowing them up into prints and then painting from them.

She was so surprised when people bought her work that she decided this must be the direction in which to turn her talents.

With just a thin portfolio under her arm, Gemma trudged the publishers rounds and was told by Lord Weidenfeld, "It won't sell" — but then left his office with commissions for two books!

As if this wasn't enough for a first-timer Gemma carved out another job for herself, producing a book with sculptor Henry Moore, taking sculpture to the masses.

Gemma says: "He was a wonderful man. I'll never forget the time he said to me '20 lifetimes is not enough to get



Gemma's photograph of Joan Collins. The photographer said her model knew exactly how to pose.

everything done." That's how I feel about it."

So in the first year of Gem's professional life as a photographer lucky Gem had three books on the go.

Not content with just being a photographer she undertook another major project with four of the greatest photographers of our time — The Lords Snowdon and Lichfield and Sir Geoffrey Shakerley and Eric Hosking.

Gemma admits that her Faces of the Eighties project resulted from the break-up of her own 25 years of marriage.

Long-standing friend, Marcia Falkender came round to cheer her up and ended up persuading her to do an exhibition for the Sharon Allen Trust.

Gemma says: "Being busy is the best medicine for me. I like a challenge. If I start a project I always see it through to the end."

Three hundred faces in a year proved to be a strain for even workaholic Gemma. She was

often snapping as many as five faces a day. The sitters would be in and out in five minutes. And the initial list of 50 names soon

grew to over 300. By the end she could hardly keep her eyes open.

Gemma says: "It was really

pure luck if I managed to get them how I wanted them. But of course, you might get more in five minutes than you do in a whole day."

Favourite

Gemma's favourite picture is of veteran British writer John Mortimer, seated barefoot in his back garden on an old straw chair, pulling the same expression as his dog which was close by. Ironically this assignment was almost a disaster.

On her way to John's she was stuck in a traffic jam for hours when she suddenly realised she had left all her equipment at home and had to dash back and get it.

She eventually arrived at John's house with only minutes to spare before the evening light faded. But she got her shot and the fading light really made the picture.

"Faces Of The Eighties" by Gemma Levine. Published by Collins priced £15.

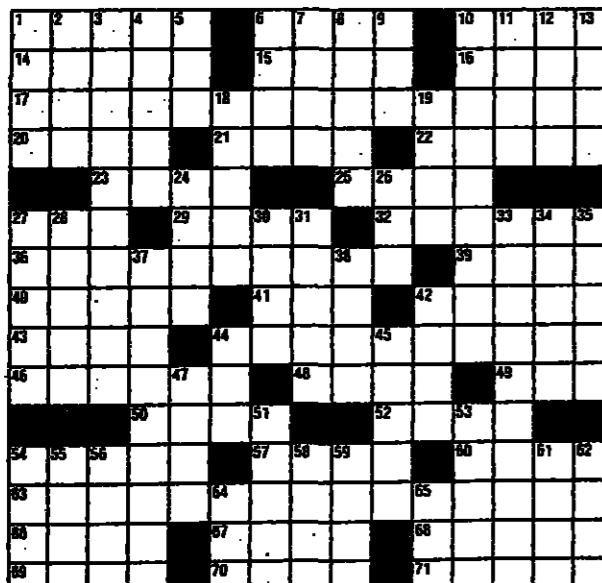


Sir John Gielgud, one of the world's greatest actors enjoyed his sitting so much he didn't want to leave.



A relaxed John Mortimer, Gemma's writer friend with his dog.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
TRY ALL COMBINATIONS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ K 4
♥ K Q 3
♦ 9 7 6 4 2
♣ Q 10 4

WEST
♠ J 10 9 8 6
♥ J 7 2
♦ Q
♣ A 9 8 3

EAST
♠ A 5
♥ A 8 5 4
♦ A 8 5 3
♣ K J 2

SOUTH
♠ A 6
♥ A 8 5 4
♦ A 8 5 3
♣ K J 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

When you have more than one way to develop the tricks you need, consider the possibilities carefully. The choice of which line to try first could be crucial.

When this hand cropped up in the final of a district team championship, both declarers reached three no trump on a straight power auction. At both tables the lead was the jack of spades, and it made no dif-

ference in which hand declarer chose to win the trick. But what came next was critical.

With six fast tricks, one declarer decided to gamble everything on a 2-2 diamond break. He tried ace of diamonds and another, but when the suit split 3-1, following the percentages, the defenders were able to force out declarer's remaining spade stopper and come to three spade tricks, two diamonds and a club before declarer could set up the nine tricks he needed.

At the other table, declarer tried a better tack. She won the opening lead and immediately cashed three rounds of hearts. That suit split 3-3, even though it was against the odds. With an extra trick in hearts in the bag, declarer simply forced out the ace of clubs and came to nine tricks via two spades, four hearts, a diamond and two clubs.

Note that, if hearts had not broken, declarer would have lost nothing. She would simply have given up on that red suit and turned her attention to the other one — diamonds. A 2-2 diamond break would then give her the same nine tricks the declarer in the other room would have made.

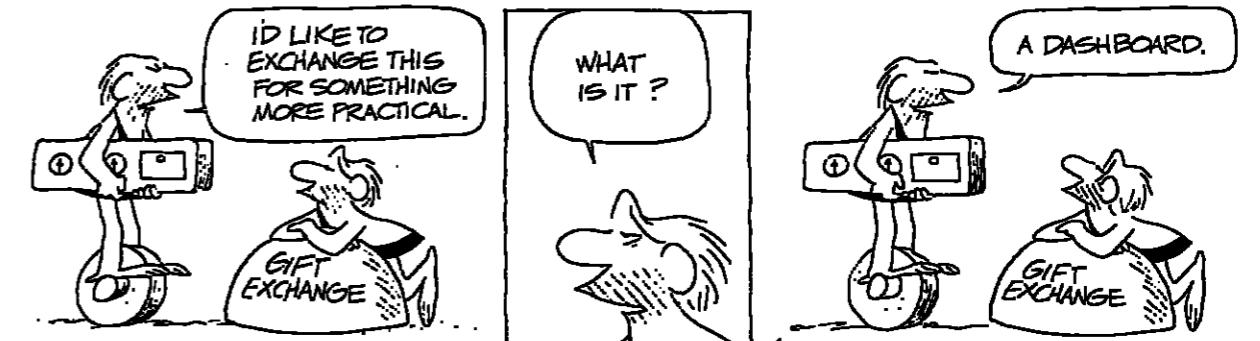
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart

B.C.



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

The prospects are good, but you must not be extravagant. You should not mistake persistence for obstinacy. Hold your head high. Be less fussy.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

You should not dwell too much on what might have been. You have a lot to be thankful for and you should not forget it. And do all you can to make someone else happy just now. Be resilient.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You should not expect good results overnight or without having to make any efforts. You would do well spending a little more time dealing with a personal matter.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You should not dwell too much on what might have been. You have a lot to be thankful for and you should not forget it. And do all you can to make someone else happy just now. Be resilient.



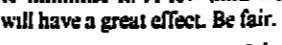
Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You are liable to create problems for yourself, so be extra careful. You will have to take a certain amount of risk, but you should try to minimise it. A few kind words will have a great effect. Be fair.



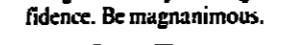
Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

Try to avoid getting into any kind of argument. Instead do your utmost to reach an understanding. Make sure you do not reveal something told to you in great confidence. Be magnanimous.



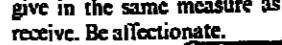
Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should beware of making empty promises or having them made to you. You should let common sense be very much your guide. Make sure you do not expect something for nothing. Be cordial.



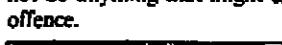
Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should be too liable to believe that all things are as you would wish them to be. You will have a good opportunity, but if you do not act swiftly it will pass you by. Take the best of care of your health.



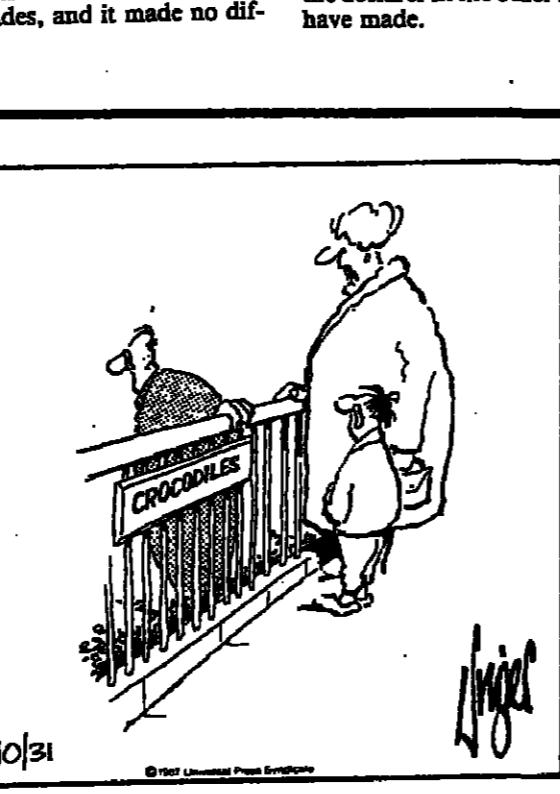
Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will have something to be really pleased about. You will be little too inclined to take things for granted. Do read the instructions carefully before using a new gadget. Be grateful.

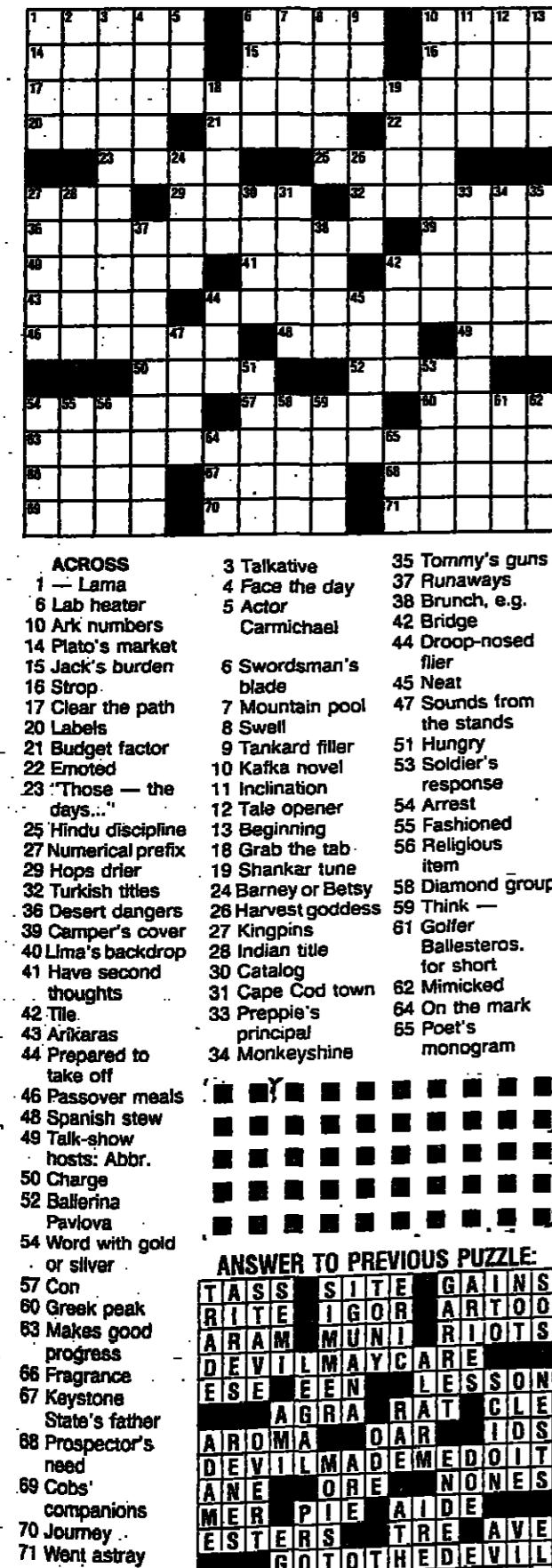


Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You should be thankful for what you have, not envious for what you have not. You will be able to do something to widen your interests and should do so. Rally to your friends. Be helpful.



"Get a move on. I'm not paying \$6 for another Frisbee."



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
TASS SITE GAINS
RITE IGOR ARTOOD
ARAM MUNI RIOTS
DEVIL MAY CARE
ESE EEN LESSON
AGRA RAT CLE
DEVIL MADE ME DO IT
ANE ORE NONES
MER PIE AIDE
FESTERS TRE AVE
GOT TO THE DEVIL
NEGEV IRON RANI
ERASE LAME LIES
WESTS SPES ELSE

All the words that are fit to print and some that aren't

A dictionary for the hi-tech age

By Eric Levin

KIDS! Tired of mother yanking those comic books out of your hands and telling you to do your homework? Consider a career in dictionary editing. You can read all the comic books you want. Of course, you'll also have to read, among hundreds of other things, aerospace journals, archery magazines, romance novels, menus, match-books, cereal boxes and massage-parlor handbills snatched your way by guys with upturned collars standing on city street corners urging, "Check it out, check it out."

Having second thoughts? Here's another fun part. Those thick, mushy romance novels? You will actually — as part of your job — cut them horizontally in half (so you won't get sucked into the plot) and peruse one half for noteworthy new words and expressions while

30 editors and their 400 consultants in 170 fields of endeavour have collaborated to supply the latest if not the last word on the state of the world's biggest and fastest-growing language, *The Random House Dictionary II*. It weighs 12 pounds, contains 2,500 pages and costs \$79.95 and took nine years and \$9 million to produce.

handing the other half to a colleague to do the same. As a dictionary editor, you'll get to go to ball games and watch soap operas. You'll also carry four-by-six "cite" cards in your pocket at all times to jot down any new slang and jargon you may overhear at lunch, on your commute and even while lying on the beach scouring a stack of computer magazines, culinary newsletters and journals of virology.

To a dictionary editor, everything in the world is of interest. More than 200 years ago

Samuel Johnson, a lexicographer himself, defined a dictionary editor as "a harmless drudge." But to Stuart Berg Flexner, editor-in-chief of the second edition of the Random House Dictionary of the English Language — the first new, unabridged dictionary to be published in the USA in two decades — more romantic images spring to mind.

"It sounds silly, because a dictionary doesn't seem exciting," says Flexner, 59. "But it's almost like working on a newspaper, because you feel you sort of the most vulgar to the most technical, that we can expect anyone to come across," says Flexner. That works out to 315,000 entries, some of them real freight trains (98 primary uses for "go," 179 for "run"). With 470,000 entries, Webster's Third New International

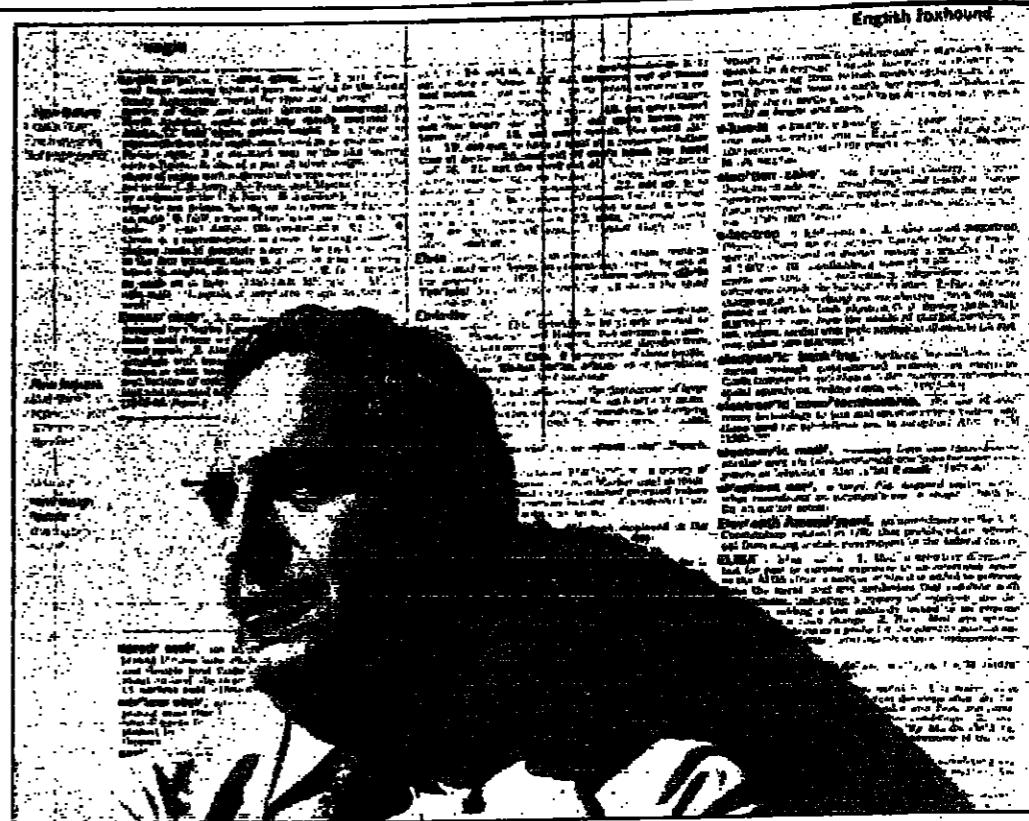
son compiled in 1755 contain fewer than 100,000 words. Today, says Flexner, "No one really knows how many words there are in English — some estimates are well over a million." Arcana abounds. There are hundreds of thousands of insects, plants and chemical dyes, for example, each with a name. What *RHD-II* offers "is, we hope, every word in every field from the most vulgar to the most technical, that we can expect anyone to come across," says Flexner. That works out to 315,000 entries, some of them real freight trains (98 primary uses for "go," 179 for "run"). With 470,000 entries, Webster's Third New International

ing, good-fellowship or triumph in which one person slaps the upraised palm of the hand against that of another." Also unearthed were 75,000 new meanings of old words (Example: *RHD-II* must have been a mother to proofread).

In the last 21 years America has gone high-tech, learning how to interface while knowing diddy-squat about how microchips work and maxing out on acronyms like CD, PC and VHS. Gay has become accepted as a nonslang word if not as a life-style. Guilty chocoholics laced up running shoes and entered triathlons until stain splints (which are the pits) turned them into "couch potatoes" who watch miniseries or the Super Bowl while pigging out on fast food and cannoli.

Describe

Yet not every new term passed muster. Couch potato was deemed not widely enough used to make it. Along with "dink" (double income, no kids) and "surimi" (that all-purpose fish product passed off as crabmeat in seafood salads), couch potatoes will have to



Editor Stuart Flexner: 'No new words from the Iran-Contra hearings, but we made sure we brought "shredding" up to date.'

issues such as whether it should be "lasagne" or "lasagna."

The more prevalent lasagna won out over the older spelling, though some traditionalist editors felt it was too soon to change. On an even more ticklish issue, a clear majority prevailed in favour of including all the big-league curse words. Yep, even the F word, once described in the *New York Times* as "probably the most widely known word in English."

The standard, as with every word that made the cut, was strictly practical. Had the word established itself in the language? The F word did that a long time ago — between 1495 and 1505, according to *RHD-II*. Says Flexner: "I think all words should be treated equally."

Flexner has built a career on his love of words. Born in Jacksonville, Ill., the son of a clothing retailer, he received diplomas from the University of Louisville before doing graduate study at Cornell. As a

research assistant at Louisville, he interviewed bank robbers, pickpockets and prostitutes for a study of criminal argot, and co-edited his first lexicon, *The Dictionary of American Slang*, in 1960. He worked as a senior editor on *RHD-I* and wrote two popular books on language in American culture before being named editor-in-chief of *RHD-II* in 1980.

Now that the job is done, you might expect him to be zonked. No way! On Halloween, which happened to be his son Geoffrey's 17th birthday — his daughter, Jennifer, 18, was away at college — Flexner and his wife, Doris, who works in advertising, invited friends over to watch three horror flicks on the VCR.

Flexner doesn't much like horror movies, but he wasn't being just an indulgent dad. He was scouting words for the third edition. He found none, but wasn't disturbed. "You keep looking," he says. "because they're out there."

Go for it, big guy!



People listen to reggae on their 'Walkmans'.

QE2: S.S. Disaster

The QE2 is the world's most luxurious ocean liner and the most unreliable. Now, as even her own crew fire a broadside at Cunard's flagship, she seems firmly on course for retirement.

By Carlton Stuart

IS THE QE2 still the stylish white hope of the British maritime industry? Or is it just a greying dinosaur, creaking towards her final voyage?

For it seems that the ill-luck which constantly dogs the world's most splendid passenger liner could, before long, sink her to the depths of the nearest scrap yard. And this time the hot water is coming from her own crew.

Never in its history has the vessel had to weather such a storm. Her owners Cunard intended her to be the super-elegant inheritor of a great transatlantic tradition, a magnificent floating palace of sheer luxury. But increasingly the question is being asked: for how much longer can the 67,000-ton Queen Elizabeth II delay relegation to a museum for yesterday's travel?

A crew member recently declared: "The best thing you can say right now about the QE2 is that it is the safest place in the world to have heart attack. Passengers can be rushed to the ship's hospital in under two minutes."

In other respects the QE2 is a fair contender for the title of "S.S. Disaster."

Plagued by a catalogue of mechanical faults — limping along this summer on a single propeller and suffering cuts in speed through engine-control system breakdowns — the owners of the QE2 are still de-

termined to maintain Britain's high standard of sea travel. But with former vessels that have included the Mauretania, the Queen Mary and the first Queen Elizabeth, it is a tough act to follow.

Flagship

Only this summer Cunard's flagship was late in completing a six-day cruise of the Iberian peninsula and passengers due to set sail on a 16-day Bermuda cruise had to languish in shore hotels.

There were other inefficiencies and delays to be endured by 1,200 passengers paying up to £3,500 each and that was after Cunard chairman Alan Kennedy had described the ship's latest refit as "the greatest maritime conversion ever."

The work carried out in the West German shipyard of Lloyds Werft at Bremerhaven, is intended to extend the vessel's life by 20 years. At the core of the conversion had been a "heart transplant" of new machinery, including nine German-built diesel electric engines to replace extravagant oil-guzzling steam turbines.

Although the £100 million refit was carried out, the work remained unfinished. The vessel, returned to service, prepared to put to sea with 80 cabins not ready for use, carpets unlaaid and equipment littering decks.

One Cunard employee admitted: "After that, it was question of ducking to avoid

the brickbats — everything from flooded cabins to overflowing lavatories and television sets that didn't work. And there were complaints of no laundry and understaffed laundry and understaffed

the contents could be assembled into bombs.

That IRA threat was swiftly followed by an anti-drug dragnet at New York, when a car unloaded from the QE2 was found to have a hidden cache of 200 pounds of heroin worth \$40 million.

Such threats were far from

mind when the original concept of the QE2 was dreamt up.

The ship's aim was to offer the world an elegant contrast to an era of travel increasingly dominated by cheap fast air travel.

At 65,863 tons, the QE2 was conceived as being smaller than the earlier Queens with aluminium superstructure to make it lighter than its predecessors.

Even so it boasted 13 decks, 90 cabins and a crew of 1,000 to



The world's most luxurious ocean liner, The Queen Elizabeth II leaves port.

before the contents could be

cater for an average of 1,200 passengers. The market was for those wanting a one-way transatlantic crossing at costs ranging from £420 to £1,725.

Passengers would be pampered in four swimming pools, eight bars, four restaurants, a casino, a nightclub, a library, a theatre, a sauna and gymnasium.

Anyone with a hearty appetite could choose 50 items from the breakfast menu and pass the time in a variety of ways ranging from putting golf balls to attending classes on wine appreciation, languages, hairdressing and extra-sensory perception.

In the background though was always the memory of the low success record of previous liners.



Passengers relax, listening to the band, in the grand lounge of the QE2.

90 cabins and a crew of 1,000 to

By Al Webb

LONDON. (UPI): They've celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's silver jubilee, the Titanic's 75th death day and the 50th anniversary of King Edward VIII's abdication. Now it's Jack the Ripper's turn.

Old "bloody Jack" is about to get the full, multimillion-dollar media hype, including his own spot on prime-time British and US television.

The occasion is the centenary of the Ripper's claim to infamy, a series of grisly murders of prostitutes in the squalor of London's gas-lit, fog-shrouded East End.

The 100th anniversary of the Ripper slayings actually does not begin until Aug. 31, but British entrepreneurs — with American help — are already at work proving there is money to be made.

In memory of the man who made "mass murder" a household phrase, a new cottage industry is taking form: a deluge of books and magazine articles, a television mini-series, T-shirts, postcards, posters, even a new cocktail.

Meanwhile, Britons and tourists alike are swarming through the East End's seedy streets, retracing the byways where the archfiend carved a deadly swath and terrorised a city from Aug. 31 to Nov. 9, 1888.

In truth, there is not really a lot to see. The East End is still grubby, but in Jack the Ripper's day it was a cesspool where 900,000 slum-dwellers fought to live, and sometimes just to fight, ignored even by the Church of England.

It was in Buck's Row, opposite Essex Wharf, before dawn on Friday, Aug. 31, 1888, that George Cross spotlighted what he thought was a tarpaulin.

Tourists, take a hint if you go looking for Ripper thrills, expect a rip-off.

By 20th century mass murder standards, Jack the Ripper's five victims (the generally accepted number, despite what Ostrowski's pub sign says) seem paupers.

The mystique is not in numbers but in acceptance that they were the first serial slayings to have widespread public impact, and in the folklore that has grown up around the fact they have never been solved, they probably never will be.

Not that there aren't suspects. There are, aplenty, including the Duke of Clarence, Queen Victoria's grandson, famed artist Walter Sickert, a failed barrister named Monique John Drift, Russian Czarist agent Alexei Pedchenko, Polish-Jew tailor Nathan Kaminsky, a cabal of police Freemasons — and even, at one brief point, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who gave the world *Sherlock Holmes*.

Early on Sunday, Sept. 30, the Ripper struck twice more, killing Swedish-born prostitute Elizabeth "Long Liz" Stride in a small court between Berner street and Back Court Lane, and then Catherine Eddowes in Mitre Square, several blocks away.

Berner street is now Hen-

Jack the Ripper gets full media treatment

riques street, and children play soccer at the Harry Gosling infants school on tarmac over the spot where Stride fell. A private parking lot, where men in business suits store their cars, covers Eddowes' death site.

British Thames Television is planning a four-part mini-series, which will attempt to identify Jack the Ripper, and CBS has agreed to buy it for \$6.1 million — only the second British drama series to be sold to a major US network.

The series is scheduled for showing in Britain and the United States next year to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the murders.

Television is nothing new to the Ripper. In the 1970s, he was the subject of an investigative series, a *Sherlock Holmes* TV movie (based on nothing Conan Doyle ever wrote), and a US-made mystery that even had the Ripper popping up in all places, Seattle.

But it is in print that Jack the Ripper has made his greatest and most lasting impact, with more than 200 books and major articles by writers who seem to spend as much time shooting down each other's theories as they do trying to spot the killer.

The deluge is growing. Five more Ripper books are due before the end of the year, a sixth is in the works and doubtless others will pour in a Rippermania approaches its peak next summer and fall.

One of the new volumes, Melvyn Harris's "Jack the Ripper: The Bloody Truth," has a new twist. It sets up a Ripper competition, offering a weekend in Paris as a prize for solving the meaning of the signature of one of the author's suspects.

In "The Ripper Legacy," Martin Howells and Keith Skinner serve up poor Drift, the failed lawyer, as the Ripper suspect of the month.

That theory is debunked by Colin Wilson, in his "Jack the Ripper" summation and verdict, partly on grounds that Drift was a gentleman cricket player and as such, Wilson claims, could not possibly have done it.

And there is Martin Fido's "The Crimes, Detection and Death of Jack the Ripper," which names Tailor Kaminsky as the culprit. Writer Terence Sharkey's unnamed contribution to this outpouring is dismissed by one reviewer as "a revoltingly lurid effort."

In fact, reviewer Christopher Hudson of the London Evening Standard is fairly damning of all the current crop of Ripperology authors: "They dip their pens into the blood of the five mutilated women as lovingly as the slaughter's thin-blooded knife."



The Queen's Grill is just one of 4 restaurants on ship.

New Delhi by night: a time of hope and despair

Voyage through the netherworld

By Earleen Fisher

NEW DELHI, India (AP): A ghostly fog descends on the city at night, and silence prevails in streets that by sunrise will again be a cacophony of honking car horns, backfiring trucks and exhaust-belching buses and scooters.

To travel across New Delhi on a winter night is to take a trip through the history, the social strata, the hopes and despairs of a city where people have lived since at least 2500 B.C.

The 12-mile (20 km) drive is like a voyage through the netherworld. Homeless people wrapped in blankets sleep mummy-like on the pavements, men in tattered clothing move darkly in the shadows, and sacred cows glide through the gloom like disembodied Hindu deities.

Occasionally the bright lights of a late-night market or a glittering luxury hotel pull the night traveller back into the momentary glow of a more familiar world.

Midday temperatures of 75 and 80 (fahrenheit) (24 and 27 C.) drop to 45 and 50 (7 and 10 C.) at night. The accompanying dampness chills body and spirit.

Rich and middle-class residents of the Indian capital are snug behind the walls and flowering trees surrounding their houses. The streets are overwhelmingly the province of the poor, who are myriad in this city of 6 million.

The night journey begins where Mathura road crosses the Ring road, a modern urban bypass encircling the capital. As Mathura road heads north



A bitter winter's night in New Delhi. The poor sleep on pavements huddled together for sheer warmth.

through the elegantly planned modern city of New Delhi, it will change names several times before it ends in a tangle of small streets leading to the 17th century walls of Old Delhi.

At a bridge near the Ring road, Shiv Sharma, a 21-year-old aspiring accountant, is selling hard-boiled eggs to help pay for his college tuition.

"I thought of eggs because they are something people buy

at night," Sharma said. "I'm here seven nights a week after classes." He said he sells 15 to 20 eggs a night. At 1.25 rupees (about 10 cents) an egg, he can make 25 rupees (almost two dollars) on a good night.

Advertise

The bridge, where billboards advertise Shikakai shampoo and Weston television sets, conceals a night-time colony of

about 1,000 truck drivers who work 12 to 14 hours a day hauling sand from neighbouring Haryana state to the capital for construction projects.

Ram Avtar, a 22-year-old trucker, came to New Delhi seven years ago after failing to find work in his native Farookabad district 180 miles (290 km) southeast of the city.

He earns about \$115 a month and sends half back to Farookabad, to the wife he has seen only twice since their wedding 11 months ago.

"Definitely, I would go home if there were work," Avtar said, sipping tea under the bridge as other drivers washed themselves with the icy water of an outdoor spigot.

Back on top of the bridge, the lights of the 50-dollar-a-night hotel Rajdoot beckon more affluent night people to the Pussy Cat discotheque, where a score of men and three women in blue jeans jerk and writhe on a minuscule dance floor.

Pay

Further up the four-lane pavement, now called Dr Zakir Hussain road after India's third president, men wrapped in blankets trudge past shuttered shops.

Then bright lights mark a winding lane where vendors sell hot food and flower garlands. At a graveyard near Nizamuddin Aulia mosque, Noor Jahan is unrolling quilts on a wooden platform where she will spend the night with her 7-year-old son, Mohammed Ismail.

It has been almost eight years since Noor, who reckons her age at 40 and looks 60, has slept in a house. She was pregnant when her husband, a carpenter, died.

"I couldn't pay the rent, so the landlord threw me out," she said. "I've been very ill since the birth of my son, so I can't work. The mosque gives us free food."

Across the road, darkness descends again at the entrance to the tomb of the 16th century Mogul Emperor Humayun.

"About 200 of us live here, sleeping on the ground," said Jaffer Hussein, who thought he was about 18 years old. "When important visitors come to see the tomb, the police move us. Otherwise, no one disturbs us."

In the daytime, he collects manure from wandering cows to be sold as fertilizer. This earns him 10 or 15 rupees (75 cents or 1.15 dollars) a day. "Just enough to fill our stomachs," his mother, Basiran, interjected.

The road remains dark until the luxury Oberoi hotel where a white-gloved and turbaned doorman snaps to attention to welcome foreign tourists and local couples out for an evening of Indian or French cuisine costing as much as Rs 400 (530) a person.

In the marble lobby, there's a rustle of silk as Indian women in jewel-toned saris swirl past visitors in tailored suits.

Soon the road runs up to India Gate, the 138-foot (42-metre)-high stone arch bearing the names of 90,000 Indian army soldiers who died in World War I and colonial Britain's Afghanistan campaign.

It's 10:30 p.m. and there's no one in sight except a half-dozen vendors, waiting hopefully for someone to buy their ice cream bars, flower garlands and balloons.

As the road narrows and winds toward the walls of old Delhi, it is lined with hundreds, if not thousands, of people wrapped in blankets and sleeping side by side on the ground.

Inside the walls, the city springs to life in small pockets. Cooks at hole-in-the-wall restaurants dish up sizzling spicy food, and chicken sellers haggle over prices for their caged and squawking merchandise.

Next to Jama Masjid, a 17th century mosque, is a line of bicycle-powered rickshaws, their drivers finished with work but still awake.

Posters on the mosque's fence exhort Muslims to

remember their brothers who died in last summer's riots with Hindus, the majority sect in India where religious diversity frequently explodes into violence.

But the rickshaw drivers, both Hindus and Muslims, said that was not part of their lives.

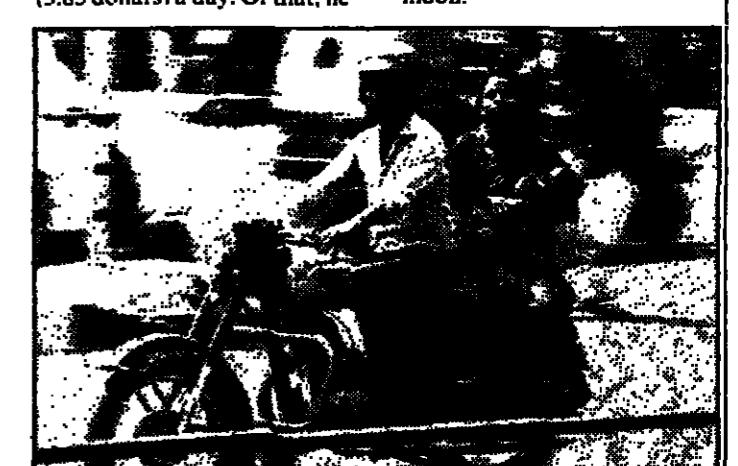
"When you live on the pavement, there is no Hindu, no Muslim." We are all brothers, said a 23-year-old Muslim rickshaw man who refused to give his name.

Curly-haired and with the wiry build of the rickshaw man, he said he earns about Rs 50 (3.85 dollars) a day. Of that, he

pays Rs 10 (75 cents) to the rickshaw owner, rents a quilt for Rs 3 (23 cents) a night, and spend the rest on his food and bad habits.

North of the walled city and its warren of narrow streets, ambling cows and mangy dogs, Shahi road leads to the Ring road at the northern end of the city.

It runs past the Sikh shrine of Sisganj Gurdwara, the Roman Catholic presentation convent school for girls and municipal government buildings to Delhi university, where grassy playing fields reflect the sheen of the moon.



By sunrise the city is a cacophony of car horns, back-firing trucks and exhaust-belching buses and scooters.

Amsterdam digs up another century of history

By Marcel Michelson

AMSTERDAM, (AP): Amsterdam has just dug up another century of history — only a dozen years after celebrating what it thought was its 700th birthday.

Digging under the Nieuwendijk, a busy Amsterdam shopping street, archaeologists have found several layers of house foundations in peaty soil seven metres (yards) below street level, the oldest dating back to the 12th century.

"The earliest document mentioning Amsterdam is a letter by Count Floris the fifth of the year 1275, in which he grants Amsterdam the privilege of free, untaxed trade," Amsterdam's city archaeologist Jan Baart said.

This date was traditionally taken as the origin of the Dutch capital. But the new findings put the city's beginnings back by another century, Baart said. "These houses are the earliest we have found up to now. Just plain wooden constructions put directly on the moors. They had to be rebuilt every few years because the houses sank into the marsh land," Baart said.

Swampy ground has always been a problem for Amsterdam.

The royal palace on the Central Dam square, built as a town hall in 1646, rests on 13,659 wooden piles and the city's famous canals were originally drainage trenches.

The entire city centre is kept upright by more than a million pinewood piles, all at least 12 metres (yards) deep to reach the first firm sand layer. Nowadays, buildings are erected on concrete piles, driven to a



City archaeologist Jan Baart standing in front of an excavation in Amsterdam's red light district. The city has just discovered another century of history, only a dozen years after celebrating what it thought was its 700th birthday.

depth of 20 metres (yards).

The tiny village now discovered carried the seeds of Amsterdam's buoyant economic development that led to its dominance in the 17th-century "golden age," when it firmly established its reputation as the world's foremost trading centre, Baart said.

"There were already specialists in this village, like Bakers and cobblers, and that is an early sign of urbanisation," he added.

There were many settlements in the area, roughly one every

30 km (19 miles). But its position on the bank of the Amstel river, enabling it to trade with towns further away, gave this village the edge.

Regular floods in the north Holland lowland lake area destroyed much agricultural land and sent many farmhands to the village to take up a trade.

Craftsmen in Amsterdam then emulated them, Baart said.

Around the year 1240, a century after the establishment of the village, people on the West Bank of the river Amstel built a Dam and started settlements on

French denier tournois mint," Baart said.

Coin minted in the Netherlands were of a later period.

The Dutch lowlands were a

relatively backward country

and most new products and

techniques were introduced

from abroad.

"This caused an economic

revolution. Barter trade

became increasingly difficult

and people started using

money. We have found coins

here of the oldest type known in

the Netherlands — black

French denier tournois mint,"

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Turkey to import gas from Algeria, Libya

ANKARA, Jan 10. (Reuters): Turkey is negotiating with Algeria and Libya to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) to reduce dependence on supplies from the Soviet Union, oil industry sources said today.

Under a project launched by the state-owned pipeline firm Botas, Turkey wants to import a total of about 1.6 billion cubic metres of LNG a year from Algeria and Libya.

Energy Ministry and Botas officials are likely to accompany Turkish President Kenan Evren on his visit to Algeria starting on January 17, the sources said.

The LNG will be stored in depots to be built in western Turkey's Marmara Sea area.

A pipeline carrying Soviet gas across the Bulgarian border into western Turkey was inaugurated last June.

Supply

The pipeline, to be extended from Istanbul to Ankara this year, will eventually supply six billion cubic metres of gas a year and help to ease thick winter smog in the two cities caused by burning high-sulphur lignite.

Turkey produces its own gas from two sites, in the west and near the Syrian border.

Domestic gas output is expected to fall to 400,000 million cubic metres this year from 500,000 million in 1987 to compensate for Soviet gas purchases.

Meanwhile, the sources said talks were in final stages for the US Navy's Mediterranean-based Sixth Fleet to rent bunker fuel storage space at Izmir's Aliağa refinery.

A US delegation is expected to visit Turkey this month to finalise the agreement.

Rubber prices move up despite buffer stock sale

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10. (Reuters): World natural-rubber prices have soared to their highest point for four years, buoyed by good demand, lower output and AIDS.

"We have made substantial sales but the price has still gone up," said Hofmeister, who managed the International Natural Rubber Organisation's buffer stock, said in an interview.

Responsible

Hofmeister, based in Malaysia, is responsible for buying or selling rubber in order to keep prices within the range agreed upon in an Inro pact.

He said prices had risen despite large sales he had made since last September, and had now gone above a "trigger" level at which he is obliged to start selling the commodity.

Hofmeister began selling when prices hit the pact's "may-sell" level of 232 Singapore-Malaysian cents per kg in early September.

The five-day Inro average price was yesterday quoted at 242.74 cents, or above the 242 cents "must-sell" level at which he is obliged to sell stockpiled rubber.

Hofmeister put the rise down to good demand from nearly all consumers and reduced output in Malaysia, the world's largest producer, because of heavy rain in November and early December.

The spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which created demand for latex used to produce condoms and surgical gloves, was a subsidiary factor, he added.

"It has added fuel to fire," he said.

Hofmeister said he would step up sales markedly in future in order to bring prices down to below 242 cents and Kuala Lumpur trade sources reported yesterday that he had already been in the market.

"If to accomplish my goal (reducing the price below 242 cents), I must sell in larger quantities, you could say there will have to be massive sales to have an impact," he said.

Trade surplus up

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10. (AP): Competitive export prices helped boost Malaysia's trade surplus to 10.34 billion ringgit (\$1.14 billion) during the first 10 months of last year, up 71.8 per cent from the same period in 1986, the Statistics Department announced today.

The department said export earnings rose 24.7 per cent to 36.45 billion ringgit (\$14.58 billion) while imports rose by 12.5 per cent to 26.11 billion ringgit (\$10.44 billion).

Currency dealers prepare for nervous week

New jolt hits Wall Street

LONDON, Jan 10. (Reuters): Stockbrokers and currency dealers braced for a nervous week in the world's money markets after a dramatic Friday sell-off on Wall Street sharpened memories of October's crash in share prices.

Asian and European markets had shun before the extent of that sell-off was known. Brokers said the extent to which they follow America down, and in turn perhaps influence Wall Street later, may depend on how far the dollar can hold on to its recent gains despite renewed worries about the US economy.

Eroding

A weak dollar alarms Asian and European investors because, besides generally eroding confidence, it crimped export earnings.

Today brought a denial by West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann of reports that the United States,

Japan and West Germany have a secret pact to drop the dollar exchange rate within a specified range.

"No. There is no such secret agreement," he told Deutschelandfunk radio in an interview made last Thursday.

But he also went on to say: "There is a clear readiness ... to do everything, and especially that the central banks will do everything, to smooth out erratic fluctuations with the use of appropriate measures."

Rumours

He did not flatly contradict what Italian officials were saying last Friday, that there is an understanding that central banks will intervene in the market to defend the dollar, but that it involves all the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations — the "Big Three" plus France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

Dollar buying by the central banks last Monday and Tuesday,

and rumours of a secret pact, lifted the dollar from its lowest values since World War Two. On Monday, the first day of 1988 trading, it touched 120.20 yen and 1,561.50 Deutsche marks. The banks' rescue bid rallied it to around 130 and 1.66.

But it ended last week under pressure again after the markets heard reports which suggested that the huge deficits being run by the United States remained far from under control.

Wall Street stocks, too, nosedived and lost gains made in a brisk new year rally.

The main blue-chip barometer, the Dow Jones industrial average, shed 140.58 points in its third biggest fall in history. On "Black Monday" October 19 it fell 508 points.

Analysts blamed computer-driven trading by big investors for the new sell-off. An earlier factor seems to have been a news report that the US federal bud-

get deficit in 1989 might under

certain circumstances be some \$30 billion above legal limits.

Rumours also circulated that the US November trade deficit, which will be announced this Friday, may turn out to have been a whopping \$20 billion and those rumours particularly hit the dollar in late Friday New York trading.

Brokers there said the yen's rate against the dollar, as well as Wall Street's drop, would influence investors.

"I expect the Tokyo market will trade weaker tomorrow from the drop on Wall Street, but a stronger yen would further exacerbate the market's downturn," said Darrel Whitten, associate director of research for Prudential Bache Securities (Japan) Ltd.

A foreign exchange dealer said the dollar is likely to be sold in

Tokyo tomorrow, but the selling would surely be countered by more central bank intervention.

On Friday, Tokyo's Nikkei Stock average rose 80.43 points to 22,872.56, a gain of only 0.35 per cent, but for the week the index had risen nearly eight per cent.

Dipped

London share prices also rallied last week, ending it 1.5 per cent up. But, late on Friday, London dipped as the dollar eased and reports came in that Wall Street was slipping.

London's blue-chip gauge, the Financial Times 100-share index, ended last week 1,773.4, having been around 1,800.

West Germany's Commerzbank's latest stock market report meanwhile notes: "The development of German share prices will continue to depend to a large extent on the dollar."

Weekend dollar trading was restricted to the Middle East.

World Business Summary

Pepsi Cola wants to set up \$19m joint ventures in India

NEW DELHI, Jan 10. (AP): An Indian government official today denied newspaper reports that a proposal by Pepsi-Cola to set up a plant in northern Punjab state has run into trouble. An official of the Industries Ministry, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a final decision by the government on the \$19-million project was not expected before April. "The government is considering almost 6,000 proposals for joint ventures. Pepsi is just one of

the cabinet's Committee on Economic Affairs," the official said. It includes a plant to make soft-drink syrup, a potato and grain processing unit, a fruit and vegetable processing unit and agricultural research facilities. The Bombay-based Indian Post newspaper said the Pepsi proposal was under fire because of alleged links between Pepsi and the US Central Intelligence Agency. The newspaper said a Pepsi-Cola connection was revealed in "Veil," a book by Bob Woodward. Woodward's book says Pepsi contributed funds for the overthrow of Chilean President Salvador Allende in 1973. The newspaper said the proposed location of the plant, in troubled Punjab state, was also worrying Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government. Sikh militants in the state have been waging a separatist campaign since 1983 and killed more than 1,000 people last year. "The entry of PepsiCo (Pepsi's parent corporation) is full of potential mischief," the newspaper said.

Pepsi plans to market only the concentrate and leave the bottling of its soft drink to local firms. India would become the 150th country in the world to market Pepsi-Cola. The only other US colas in India is Double-Cola.

Coca-Cola was expelled from India in 1977 because the company refused to disclose its soft drink concentrate formula, as required by Indian law.

Indonesia seeks foreign firms to explore oil

JAKARTA, Jan 10. (AP): The government has taken a number of steps aimed at encouraging foreign oil companies to engage in oil exploration and extraction in Indonesia, a government official said. Minister of Mines and Energy Subroto was quoted as telling the Indonesian news agency Antara that the government has simplified administrative procedures and will extend oil exploration and exploitation contracts to companies. Subroto also said Indonesia disagrees with Iran's call for an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to discuss oil prices. At their last meeting, the 13 Opec member nations agreed to maintain an oil benchmark price of \$18 per barrel and a production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day. Subroto pointed out that several Gulf countries such as the United Arab Emirates have implemented the decision by cutting their production in line with fixed quotas, and that prices have been improving. The North Sea oil, Brent crude, is now priced at \$18 per barrel in the spot market, Subroto said. "If all Opec member countries abide by the decision to maintain the agreed Opec oil price and production quota, the bench price of \$18 per barrel could be realised," he added. Indonesia in late December announced it would not abide by the Opec agreement unless other member nations obeyed the accord.

No 3-nation pact on dollar target: Bangemann

BONN, Jan 10. (Reuters): West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann said today there was no secret pact between the United States, West Germany and Japan to stabilise the dollar in which they set target zones for its value.

The West German Finance Ministry had no comment on this statement, made in a radio interview broadcast today.

Bangemann was asked in the interview with Deutschelandfunk radio whether he could confirm such an accord.

Headless

Brokers have said rumours of a three-nation pact were among factors which helped the dollar during a rebound it made last week from historic lows.

before rebounding after intervention by central banks.

Later came the rumour of a specific currency pact between the United States, Japan and West Germany, actually fixing a target zone for the dollar.

These were said by dealers to have helped the rally, but also to have instilled caution about taking the dollar too high. A precise target zone implied a ceiling, as well as a floor.

Specific

Monetary analysts noted that the question put to Bangemann in the radio interview was so specific that his negative answer did not necessarily rule out some form of accord.

In December, the Group of

Seven (G-7) industrial nations said in a public statement that excessive rate fluctuations "could be counterproductive".

Last Friday, an Italian Treasury Ministry official said that the Italian Treasury Minister, Giuliano Amato, had confirmed the existence of a secret accord — between all the G-7 nations — to support the dollar through central bank intervention.

"Perestroika is indispensable and I support it because I find it in a strong connection with what we were confronted with 20 years ago," Dubcek said in an interview with the Italian Communist Party daily *L'Unita*.

Perestroika is the slogan for Gorbachev's economic "restructuring" programme.

Gorbachev reforms praised

ROME, Jan 10. (AP): Alexander Dubcek, Czechoslovakia's former Communist Party leader, says he fully supports the economic reforms of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, comparing them to his own "Prague Spring" reforms of 1968 that were crushed by a Warsaw Pact invasion.

"Perestroika is indispensable and I support it because I find it in a strong connection with what we were confronted with 20 years ago," Dubcek said in an interview with the Italian Communist Party daily *L'Unita*.

Perestroika is the slogan for Gorbachev's economic "restructuring" programme.

Agriculture becomes battle ground for trade liberalisation

KUALA LUMPUR, Indonesia, Jan 10. (Reuters): Agriculture is the ground for world trade liberalisation in 1988, with them controlling two-thirds of world trade, but also include senior officials from Canada, Australia, China, New Zealand, South Korea, Hong Kong and South-East Asia.

More than 100 countries are involved in GATT's latest round of trade liberalisation talks in Geneva covering 14 sectors, including agriculture, manufactured goods and service industries.

The talks were dominated by the US, Japan and the 12-nation European Economic Community.

They included agriculture, tropical products and ways of strengthening the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Agriculture is a jungle right now. There are no international rules governing it, and there is a definite need for them," Canadian Minister for International Trade Patricia Carney said.

"What we've done is put agriculture firmly on the table," Michael Duffy, Australian Minister for Trade Negotiations said.

Duffy heads a bloc of 14 nations known as the Cairns Group, which is pressing for free trade in agriculture.

The Reagan administration is pushing for agreement to start dismantling global agricultural subsidies under GATT by the end of this year.

Lawmakers urged to ratify trade pact

WASHINGTON, Jan 10. (Reuters): President Reagan, insisting Canada and the United States will reap economic gains from a recently signed trade pact, urged lawmakers in both nations yesterday to ignore special interests and ratify the pact.

Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney last week signed the landmark trade pact, which would lessen numerous trade barriers and eliminate tariffs by the year 2000.

The US Congress and the Canadian Parliament must ratify the agreement, which has aroused opposition in both countries from certain labour unions and industries concerned about its potential impact on them.

Segments

"Whenever there is change, even for the better, there are segments of society that will resist — small groups that have a special interest in keeping things the way they are," Reagan said, "even at the expense of keeping everybody else from moving forward."

In approaching the US-Canadian free trade agreement, I would hope that the national interest will overcome the pressure of the private interest on

both sides of the border," he said during his weekly radio address.

"I would hope that our peoples of Canada and the United States and their elected representatives are able to keep their eyes on the long-term growth and opportunity that will be forthcoming with this agreement, rather than short-run dislocation that come with any change."

Reagan said he has "no doubt that history will prove this agreement a boon to both our peoples."

Hammered out

The agreement, hammered out during 18 months of negotiations by both sides is based on the premise that fewer trade restrictions will generate more jobs and economic growth for both countries.

The European Economic Community's decision to cut tariffs in the 1980s and 1990s served as a model for the negotiations.

Experts in the US Commerce Department project US-Canadian trade will increase by at least \$2.5 billion over the next five years, if the pact is ratified.

During 1986, bilateral trade between the neighbours exceeded \$15 billion.

Saudi riyal deposits firmer

BAHRAYN, Jan 10. (Reuters): A long slide in Saudi interbank interest rates seems to have reached its end, bankers said today.

Businesses, they said, had begun over the last few days to convert government payments made to them before the end of 1987 into foreign currencies, forcing riyal interest rates up.

"This time I think it's a solid move upward," said one dealer.

On Thursday and again yesterday, he said, large withdrawals forced banks to enter into repurchase agreements to boost liquidity.

For the last few months, rates had remained low as the government flooded the market with payments and dealers speculated that the riyal would be revalued.

Takeshita nervous about trip to US, Canada

TOKYO, Jan 10. (Reuter): With public trade tension between Japan and the West running high, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita leaves for the United States and Canada this week suffering from personal apprehension as well.

"I shall be visiting these two countries with some feeling of tension," Takeshita told foreign reporters last week.

The journey to Japan's largest trading partners will be a closely watched test of Takeshita's diplomatic skill and foreign policy knowledge, government officials said.

Too little

Takeshita is viewed by many as having too little experience in international affairs.

This will be the Prime Minister's first trip to North America since taking office last November.

He will visit Washington from Tuesday to Friday, meeting President Reagan on Wednesday. He will meet other administration officials and congressional leaders as well.

On Friday Takeshita flies to Toronto to start a Canadian visit that ends on Sunday. He returns to Japan on January 20 after visiting Hawaii.

Government officials said the prime minister will have to walk a fine line between domestic pressure groups opposed to change and strong US demands that Japan open its farm and construction markets to foreigners.

"Those two issues, if not properly handled, could cause serious problems to Japan-US relations, which are very solid otherwise," said a senior foreign ministry official, who asked not to be identified.

Depends

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party depends heavily on farmers' votes and financial support from construction firms, especially those involved in government-funded public works.

A litany of complaints against Japanese trading practices, filed by the US special trade representative's office and private companies, will also be taken up during Takeshita's trip, US officials said.

Some Japanese newspapers reported today that Japan had devised a plan to enable US participation in a selected number of large-scale public works projects.

KIO's vital role praised

LONDON, Jan 10. (Kuna): An influential British newspaper paid tribute today to the role played by Kuwait Investment Office here in encouraging investors to buy shares in Britain's largest company, British Petroleum.

In one week BP has been transformed from "the stock no one would touch to the most erotic international stock around the world," the Sunday Times newspaper stressed.

The weekly made it clear that "the magic wand" had been waved by KIO, the government agency here, "which scooped up to 18.04 percent of BP, by splashing out more than £900 million on the partly-paid shares" issued in the government's privatisation programme for the company last October.

Move

Praising KIO's move the paper pointed out that it has helped underwriters of the BP issues and boosted liquidity in London stock market overall.

"A couple of weeks ago nobody wanted BP stock. Now, buying by the KIO has brought back droves of investors," it emphasised.

KIO's action came in the wake of the stock market crash in October last year, when investors did not show any interest in buying shares in BP, the world's third largest firm, it added.

BP's new shares now jumped from 70 pence last Monday to 79 pence, while the old ones rose from 250 to 270 pence after Kuwait "oils the recovery" of BP.

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The Islamic Fund 6.60

Other 6.60

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SFR 10.00

Pension fund that will cheer expatriates

By Midas

MANY expatriates here wonder what they should do about providing a pension for their old age since few companies in Kuwait offer such benefits. Obviously, this is a very complex area and everybody's situation will be different so what follows should only be taken as a general outline of the subject.

The first point to make is that for most expatriates, especially long-term ones, a pension plan is not really such a good idea.

The reason is simple, in Britain and most other Western countries, the government is anxious to assist those who make their own pension arrangements.

This assistance is given in the form of tax concessions.

In Britain, for example, you can pay up to 12.12 per cent of your income, tax-free, into a pension fund. This makes good financial sense, particularly as the pension fund itself has many tax benefits.

However, if you are living abroad, you are not paying tax anyway, so this concession is worthless.

Furthermore, although you may be able to draw a tax-free pension, nevertheless, the underlying funds in which the pension money is actually invested, are subject to taxation at the following day.

In the case of bank accounts, you simply close the account, then re-open it the day after. This might sound a bit silly, but in effect, what you are doing is re-establishing your capital base.

If, for example, you have invested £25,000 and it has grown, over the years to £50,000, then the Taxman will take a large bite out of your £25,000 profit.

However, if you "bed and breakfast" the £50,000 before you go home, then it will consider the entire £50,000 to be your initial capital, so far as taxation is concerned. Therefore you will not have to pay any tax at all.

Continue

If you wish to continue to receive a tax-free income after your return home, this can also be arranged by using what is

safeguard your capital gains. The easiest way to do this is to "bed and breakfast" your funds. This simply means that you arrange to sell the units, bonds or whatever on one day and re-purchase them the following day.

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Directed

The above advice is mainly directed at long-term expatriates. If you are only here for two or three years, then it would be wise to continue with any pension scheme that you have already started while back home.

Alternatively, you can use your time here to build up a lump sum which you can then use to

start a pension scheme on your return.

To do this, you simply get one of the major assurance companies like the Royal, or London Life, to write an offshore policy which covers your entire savings.

These days they will only charge a minimal amount for this service, say one per cent of the total sum involved.

This policy will allow you to withdraw five per cent per year totally free of all tax.

If you need to withdraw more than 5 per cent you will only have to pay tax according to a complex, but quite beneficial, schedule.

Inflation

It's only growing by the difference between the interest rate and the rate of inflation.

So at present, if inflation is roughly 4 per cent your capital is only really growing by 5 per cent. Any calculations that you make about what your pension will finally be worth should take this into account, or you may well end up in trouble.

US trade gap will narrow: economists

NEW YORK, Jan 10. (Reuter):

The US trade deficit for November will probably decline from October's record level, but it will have to shrink by more than \$3 billion to recharge the dollar and cheer other financial markets, economists say.

They estimate the monthly trade shortfall, one of the most politically sensitive indicators, will be between \$14.3 billion and \$16 billion when it is announced next Friday.

Mammoth

The October gap, reported last month, came to a mammoth \$17.63 billion and badly undermined the dollar.

Economists explain that as the rest of the world accumulates dollars, through successive trade deficits, the demand for the US currency declines.

New York foreign exchange dealers estimate that if the November gap comes to \$14.5 billion or less, the dollar will receive a big boost.

Higher

"A 14.5 billion to \$15 billion deficit would be pretty neutral. It could even spark a small sell-off to 1.62 (West German) marks before the dollar stabilises. But a number of 13.25 billion to 14.25 billion could be positive," a dealer said.

Trend

"Whatever the seasonally adjusted trend is, November tends to be right on it, while October tends to be \$2 billion above it," said Jason Benderley of Goldman Sachs and Co. He

predicted the deficit for November was \$14.5 billion.

"Lower imports (in November) will outweigh a decline in exports," said Aubrey Zaffre of IBJ-Schroder Inc. She predicted the trade gap would come to \$14.8 billion.

Steeply

Carson said he expected the figures to show that imports and exports declined in November, with imports falling more steeply.

While a decline in US demand for foreign goods should help narrow the deficit, economists say that is needed to turn the nation's trade position around is higher foreign demand for US goods.

Stephen Slifer with Shearson Lehman's Government Securities Department is concerned that the recent US export boom may be fading.

"Exports have been going gangbusters. But we could be reaching production constraints. The seasonally adjusted export numbers have levelled off," said Slifer, who is predicting a \$15.5 billion deficit for November.

Attuned

The foreign exchange market, and to a lesser extent, the US stock and bond markets, are particularly attuned to the

upcoming trade report. The announcement last month of an unexpectedly large October deficit sent the dollar into a tailspin.

It touched record lows of 1.5615 marks and 120.20 yen at the beginning of this week before the major central banks bought billions of dollars in the open market to push the currency higher. The dollar closed in New York at 1.6385 marks and 128.35 yen on Friday.

Although many economists have been saying for some time that the nation's trade gap is narrowing in volume terms and the dollar's weakness inflates the price of imports, financial markets still react to the nominal trade deficit.

Turkey's EEC ties to be reviewed

ANKARA, Jan 10. (Reuter): French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond arrives in Ankara tomorrow to discuss Turkey's ties with the European Economic Community, defence cooperation and other issues.

"We hope that France will support our application to join the Community. Possibilities have emerged for wide-ranging cooperation," Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz told the semi-official Anatolian news agency.

Relations between France and Turkey were cool for a decade because of what Ankara saw as French support for the Armenian cause and Raimond is the first French foreign minister to pay a visit since 1975.

Denied

Successive Turkish governments have denied charges that 1.5 million Armenians were massacred in eastern Turkey in World War One.

But ties have gradually improved since high-level contacts resumed in 1986. The Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that Raimond's two-day official visit marked a new era in relations.

Sharp fall

The dollar's sharp fall Friday sent the Dow Jones industrial average down 142 points, its third-largest single-day point fall in history.

"Dealers were unnerved by vague rumours of a \$20 billion deficit for November," one stock trader said.

Asca signs pact with Acca

By Khalid Ahmed

TALAL Abu Ghazaleh, the president of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (Asca), said at a press conference yesterday that the society had recently signed an agreement with the Association of Certified Accountants (Acca) to conduct Asca qualification examination in Arabic.

According to the agreement the examinations will be supervised by Acca through a committee comprising three representatives each from Asca and Acca. The examinations will be assessed by Acca to ensure equivalent standards of the association's examination papers.

Section

Abu Ghazaleh said that the first section of the Arabic examinations will be held in November, 1989, while the second and third sections will be held in 1990 and 1991 respectively. Examination centres have been designated in Amman, Manama and Riyadh.

He said that this is a major step enabling Arab accountants to qualify and develop the profession of Arab accounting to international standards and at the

same time maintaining Arab traditions.

Abu Ghazaleh said that Asca had accomplished a lot during the past four years. It had organised the first Arab international conference on the development of the accounting profession and had now signed the agreement with Acca to conduct Arabic examinations.

The Kuwait Municipality invited the above bidding in conformity with the special and general conditions stated in the bidding documents.

Contractors (individuals or companies) registered in the Commercial Register and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce & Industry for 1986 and specialised in such field may collect the bidding documents from the office of the Financial Affairs Dept. Tenders Division, Municipality Bldg. during office hours against an unrefundable fee of K.D.25/- to be paid at the Municipality Treasury.

Offers shall be deposited in the specified box at the Financial Affairs Director's Office at the Municipality before the end of office hours of Sunday, 10.1.1988 and shall be valid for 90 days from the date of opening the envelopes. Any offer received after such date shall not be considered.

The initial guarantee shall be 5% of the offer value in the form of certified cheque only and it shall be valid for the offer's validity period. The Municipality shall have the right to accept or reject any offer without stating the pertinent reason.

To be continued

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AUDI 200 turbo, 1982, automatic full options, white. KD 850. Tel. Agge, 2420349, 8am-2pm. (AT3-40521-2)

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TOYOTA Corolla, 77, 2 doors, with AC, radio, registered upto Sept '88, manual, in good condition. KD 230. Tel. Mr Amanullah. 4834655 Ext 436, 7am-4pm. (AT3-40522-2)

OLDSMOBILE Omega 1981, fully automatic, AC, AM/FM radio cassette, in good condition. KD 500. Tel. 5633087, 9036281 after 1pm. (AT2-40487-3)

PLYMOUTH Volair, 1979 model. Overall in good condition. Tel. 2432045, 2434924. (AT1-MJ-3)

OLDSMOBILE 98, 1983, AC, fully automatic, black, 51,000 miles in excellent condition. KD2350 ono. Tel. 5981951, 9015244. (AT2-40496-3)

MITSUBISHI Galant GLX, 1986, manual, 59000 kms, serviced and maintained by Al Mulla. In excellent condition. KD1250 ono, ono. Tel. Gardner, 3941348. (AT3-40516-3)

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SPORTS

SRI LANKANS LOSE ANOTHER WSC MATCH

Boon ton takes Aussies to victory

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 10. (Reuters) David Boon overcame oppressive heat and battered Sri Lanka's bowlers to post his highest one-day cricket score and lead Australia to an 81-run victory in the World Series Cup match today.

The stocky Tasmanian opener made 122 before he became the second Australian to lose his wicket, but by then had played a pivotal role in two match-winning partnerships.

Boon's marvellous innings helped Australia amass 289 for another 50 overs, which left Sri Lanka chasing 5.8 runs per over to win their first World Series Cup match.

Efforts

That proved far beyond their capabilities and they could manage only 208 for eight, despite the determined efforts of batsmen Roshan Mahanama, Asanga Gurusinghe and Aravinda de Silva.

Boon won the Man of the Match award for his second international one-day century, beating his 111 against India in Madras in 1986.

With the hot conditions with the temperature near the century mark took their toll and Boon



Boon: played a pivotal role

was physically ill after running four soon after making his 100, which took 2 1/2 hours.

He belted 15 fours from 131 deliveries before holing out to Sri Lankan captain Ranjan

utes before Marsh was run out for 37 in the 34th over.

Dean Jones joined Boon and they added a quickfire 84 runs in 49 minutes from 82 deliveries before Boon made his exit.

Boon said he was becoming dehydrated from the heat when he vomited, but he did not feel dizzy or too sick.

He said the Sri Lankans bowled a steady line and length, but lacked a little pace.

Mahanama top-scored for Sri Lanka with a stubborn 50, while both Gurusinghe and De Silva carved out 43.

The defeat left Sri Lanka needing to win all its four remaining matches to have a chance of playing in the World Series Cup finals later this month.

The win allowed Australia to remain at the head of the WSC table with New Zealand, with each having six points from four matches.

Victorian Tony Dodemaide took the bowling honours, finishing with three for 27 from 10 overs.

Craig McDermott took two for 31.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA

G. Marsh run out 37

D. Boon Madugalle b A. de Silva 122

D. Jones c Gurusinghe b Labrooy 69

A. Border c E. de Silva b Ramayake 13

M. Veletta run out 5

S. Waugh not out 8

C. McDermott run out 8

G. Dyer not out 3

Sundries (4b, 16lb, 4w) 24

Six wickets for 289

Fall of wickets: 115 (Marsh), 199

(Boon), 244 (Border), 268 (Jones), 274 (Veletta), 282 (McDermott).

Bowling: R. Ramayake 10-0-49-1

(2w), G. Labrooy 10-0-44-1 (2w), C. Ramayake 8-0-46-0, E. de Silva 4-0-27-0, A. Ramatunga 8-0-50-0, A. de Silva 10-0-53-1.

SRI LANKA

R. Mahanama c Veletta b Whitney 50

E. Kuruppu b McDermott 5

A. Gurusinghe run out 43

A. de Silva run out 43

Ramatunga c Veletta b Dodemaide 23

R. Madugalle lbw b Dodemaide 7

R. Ramayake b Dodemaide 1

G. de Alwis not out 11

E. de Silva c Veletta b McDermott 3

G. Labrooy not out 3

Sundries (1b 1lb 1nb 6w) 19

Eight wickets for 208

Fall of wickets: 9 (Kuruppu), 106

(Gurusinghe), 132 (Mahanama), 173

(A. de Silva), 187 (Madugalle), 189

(Ramayake), 190 (Ramatunga), 197

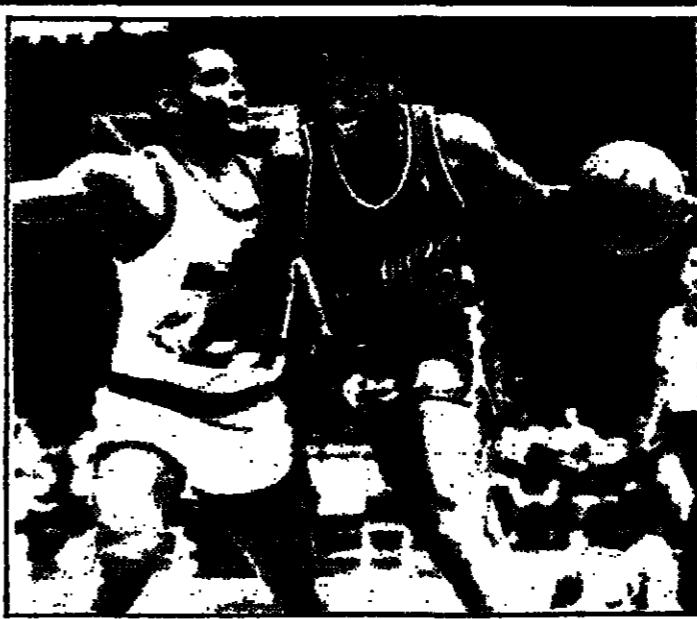
(E. de Silva).

Bowling: T. Dodemaide 10-1-27-3,

C. McDermott 10-0-31-2 (1nb 5w),

M. Whitney 10-0-53-1, S. Waugh 10-

0-37-0 (1w), P. Taylor 10-1-48-0.



Mike Woodson (right) of Clippers tries to drive past Bullets Jeff Malone. (Reuter wirephoto)

Johnson and Worthy lead Lakers rally to edge past Pacers

NEW YORK, Jan 10. (AP): Roundup of National Basketball Association games last night:

Lakers 101, Pacers 98

Michael Jordan hit the 40-point mark for the sixth time this season with a game-high 45, and Chicago beat Utah Jazz 113-91 for its fourth consecutive NBA victory.

The Jazz, led by Karl Malone's 25 points and 18 from Thurl Bailey, had trailed only 56-54 at half-time, but lost control in the third quarter as Jordan scored 16 points in the game in Chicago.

Bullets 108, Clippers 78

Bernard King scored 24 points, as Washington handed the Los Angeles Clippers their 10th straight loss, 108-76.

The Lakers, whose last loss was to Washington a month ago, caught Indiana and took the lead for good at 94-93 on a layup by Worthy with 4:24 remaining.

Knicks 106, Celtics 98

Rookie Mark Jackson matched his season high with 22 points and Sidney Green scored 12 of his season-high 20 in the fourth quarter as New York defeated Boston 106-98.

Green scored eight points during a 14-3 spurt that broke a 91-91 tie with 3 minutes left and gave New York a 105-94 lead with 24 seconds remaining.

Jackson also finished with 14 assists for the Knicks, who snapped a three-game losing streak while holding the Celts to 63 points after the first quarter in the game in New York.

76ers 126, Cavaliers 110

Charles Barkley scored 35 points and Cliff Robinson added 27 as Philadelphia beat Cleveland 126-110 for their fourth straight victory.

Maurice Cheeks had 17 points and 16 assists for the 76ers in the

game in Philadelphia. The 76ers improved their record to 16-15.

Bulls 113, Jazz 91

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Bullets 108, Clippers 78

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The victory was the Bullets' second in three games since Wes Unseld replaced Kevin Loughery as coach last Sunday. They had lost five straight games before the change. They played the game in Landover, Maryland.

Hawks 113, Nuggets 105

Dominique Wilkins scored 33 points and Jon Koncak added a career-high 25, sparking Atlanta to a 113-105 victory over Denver.

It was the eighth victory in the last nine games for the Hawks, who also have won 18 of their last 21.

In the game in Atlanta, Atlanta erased a 50-43 deficit in the final four minutes of the first half with a 14-2 run.

Rockets 104, Suns 98

Akeem Olajuwon scored a season-high 33 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as Houston defeated Phoenix 104-98.

Eric Floyd added 15 points and eight assists in the game in Houston, while Purvis Short scored 18 as the Rockets won for the seventh time in nine games.

CBK defeat New Friends

CBK defeated New Friends Cricket Club by four wickets in a friendly match on Friday.

After winning the toss and batting first, New Friends' openers Ramesh and Danny put on 90 runs for the first wicket. Ramesh hit 49 and Danny 40 as New Friends went on to score 158.

The other scorers were Zahoor 22, Azeem 20 and Suri 18.

Mal

For CBK, Ishaq took five wickets for 50 while Shaukat got four for 60.

CBK openers Ishaq and Rafiq out on 125 for the first wicket. Rafiq scored 70 and Ishaq 50 as CBK went past the victory target for the loss of six wickets. Rashed 20 and Shaukat with an unbeaten 15 were the other main scorers.

For New Friends Tanveer took three for 30, Ramesh two for 68 and Rais one wicket for 40.

MSCC edge Gymkhana

MORNING Star Cricket Club (MSCC) scored a thrilling one-run victory over Lahore Gymkhana in a Morning Star Trophy match at the Airport-Hijra ground on Friday.

Batting first, MSCC were given a jolt by Anjum Bashir when he removed Ameen, Waris and Dilawer without scoring. Anjum Bashir then accounted for Riaz, Abid and Tariq with the total only 17.

Depart

Teenagers Sarfaraz and Ejaz then put their heads down to pull MSCC out of trouble by putting in 100 runs for the 7th wicket. Sarfaraz was the first to depart after scoring 60 valuable runs which included six fours.

Ejaz was out after a disciplined innings of 41. Saeed 11 and Jamil remained unbeaten and took MSCC to 137 in the 25 allotted overs.

Gymkhana, needing 5.52 runs per over, put up a fight but lost three wickets in the last over off which they needed seven runs.

Eleven Stars score victory

ELEVEN Stars Cricket Club defeated Super Stars by seven runs in a Star Trophy match at the Hilton ground on Friday.

Eleven Stars, in reply, were all out for 109. Tabassum scored 34 while Babar hit 33. For Eleven Stars, Ghulam took four wickets while Feroz got three.

Thomas wins US figure skating competition

DENVER, Jan 10. (AP): After capping a stirring comeback from last year's disappointments by winning her second US Figure Skating Championship, Debi Thomas feels she is ready for anything. Even Katarina Witt.

"Yeah, I'm ready," Thomas said last night. "It will be a battle."

Witt, of East Germany, is the defending Olympic champion. Thomas beat her in the 1986 World Championships, but lost to Witt last year.

"Winning this (the US Figure Skating Championship) is one step in the direction of accomplishing an Olympic gold medal," said the 20-year-old Thomas. "This year, I'm more ready than I've ever been."

Last year, hindered by foot injuries and inconsistency, she also lost the national crown.

This time, healthy again and with renewed determination, Thomas won all three phases of the competition. She finished first with all nine judges in the long programme to clinch the title.

Her freestyle portion was spiced by a triple toe loop-triple toe loop combination in the opening 22 seconds. Thomas was the only one of the contenders to hit a triple-triple.

Coached

Defending champion Jill Trenary, 19, moved from third to second place with a strong free skating performance. Caryn Kadavy, who is coached by Carlo Fassi — who developed Olympic champions Peggy Fleming and Dorothy Hamill — slipped to third.

Thomas, Trenary and Kadavy made the US squad for next month's winter Olympics at Calgary.

In the pairs competition, Jill Watson and Peter Oppenard overcame a fall and a missed combination jump to retain their title.

Hawks 113, Nuggets 105

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Akeem Olajuwon scored a season-high 33 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as Houston defeated Phoenix 104-98.

Eric Floyd added 15 points and eight assists in the game in Houston, while Purvis Short scored 18 as the Rockets won for the seventh time in nine games.

Gomez takes WBA title

SEOUL, Jan 10. (AP): Venezuela's Leo Gomez won the World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum-weight championship with an unanimous 12-round points verdict over South Korean Kim Bong-Jun in Pusan.

Jackson also finished with 14 assists for the Knicks, who snapped a three-game losing streak while holding the Celts to 63 points after the first quarter in the game in New York.

The late pressure on Strange was applied by Woosnam, whose huge haul of victories in 1987 included the World Matchplay, the World Cup and the Sun City Million Dollar Challenge. He was never more than three strokes adrift in the final round.

It was Strange's first win in four Australian visits. His previous best was runner-up to Jack Nicklaus in the 1976 Australian Open.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tennis crown

AUCKLAND, Jan 10. (Reuter): Amos Mansdorf unfathomed the mysteries of Indian magician Ramesh Krishnan and beat him 6-3 6-4 in just 77 minutes to win the Auckland Grand Prix men's singles title today.

Iraqi fans

BAGHDAD, Jan 10. (Reuter): Iraqi soccer fans will stay at home when the national team meets Kuwait in Oman for the second leg of their Olympic qualifying tie, an Iraqi sports official said on Sunday.

West triumph

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Jan 10. (AP): The East College football all-stars had most of the all-Americans, but the West had all the touchdowns today, harassing east's quarterback into an afternoon of errant passes to win 17-3.

World record

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 10. (AP): Australian Kerry Saxby broke the world record for the 5,000-metre walk today at the Sydney athletic field. Saxby, 26, from Ballina, on the north coast of New South Wales state, clocked 20 minutes, 55.76 seconds, almost 41 seconds less than the world mark of 21:36.2 set by Oleg Krishcic of the Soviet Union in 1984.

Cup races

DAVOS, Switzerland, Jan 10. (AP): East German speedskating ace Karin Kania won World Cup races over 500 and 1,500 metres in the fifth event of the season yesterday.

E. German defects

SAARBRUECKEN, West Germany, Jan 10. (AP): Former East German soccer star Juergen Sparwasser defected during an indoor tournament for veterans in West Germany, police and East German officials said today.

Schwarz leads

ST MORITZ, Switzerland, Jan 10. (AP): Hubert Schwarz of West Germany took the lead at a Nordic Combined individual competition in the men's World Cup after the ski jump part of the event yesterday.

STAGE SET FOR AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Surface favours Lendl, says Edberg

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 10. (AP): Defending champion Stefan Edberg believes the new synthetic rebound ace surface for the \$1.9 million Australian Open, starting tomorrow, will aid the world's top-ranked player, Ivan Lendl.

Lendl, a Czech living in the United States, is the biggest threat to the Swede becoming the first player since Australian Roy Emerson in 1965 to capture three successive Australian crowns.

He is also the man standing between Edberg and his major goal — seizing the No. 1 spot.

Provided

Although Lendl is favoured to take his first Australian title, Edberg said today the new surface at the National Tennis Centre provided for a much more open tournament than the grass of Kooyong, the previous open venue.

"The surface is an advantage to Lendl, but it is not a disadvantage to me because I can play well on this stuff too," Edberg said.

"Lendl is the one to beat because he is No. 1, but there are a lot of others who can play good tennis and have a good day," the world's second-ranked player said.

The surface is an advantage to Lendl, but it is not a disadvantage to me because I can play well on this stuff too," Edberg said.

"Last night (in Adelaide) was far away from the best I can play, but I thought I played ok under the circumstances. I didn't expect too much of myself. I just did what I wanted to do to prepare for this week."

Edberg and fellow Swede Mats Wilander have been drawn to meet in the semifinals, while Lendl and Cash are on course to meet in the other half of the draw.

"I haven't felt it too much. I've been able to practice hard and play my matches in Adelaide. It's getting better every day," he said.

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